The Master Builder of A Great Commonwealth

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Porfirio Diaz

PORFIRIO DIAZ

PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

THE MASTER BUILDER OF A GREAT COMMONWEALTH

BY

JOSÉ F. GODOY

Author of "A Few Facts About Mexico," "The Legal and Mercantile Handbook of Mexico," etc.

WITH 60 ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS AND DIAGRAMS

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PREFACE

"I LOOK at Porfirio Diaz, the President of Mexico, as one of the greatest men to be held up for the hero-worship of mankind." These words, uttered by Senator Elihu Root, when in 1907 and as Secretary of State of the United States, he visited the Mexican Republic, fully justify the publication of any work which, containing reliable data, may give an impartial and truthful account of the life of President Diaz.

The wonderful career of this great man, both owing to his military achievements and to his great success as a statesman cannot fail, and has not failed up to now, to claim the attention not only of his countrymen, but also of the whole civilized world.

In the English speaking countries, the desire to have a thorough knowledge of the past deeds and present achievements of General Porfirio Diaz, is frequently manifested. The writer of this work, therefore, thinks that a book prepared like the present one and based upon accurate information, a great deal of which has been obtained through personal observation, will prove interesting to the reading public of the United States and England.

It may be here stated that, in order to present the facts, as they really happened, and with preciseness and accuracy as to dates and some other circumstances, the President himself, some members of his family and his chief advisers and many of his friends, have been consulted: thereby correcting any misstatement, that unintentionally might have crept into the narrative.

The illustrations which accompany this work, it is to be hoped, will add some attraction to it, and the charts and maps, which have been especially prepared for this biography, will greatly aid the reader to grasp and better understand some of the incidents in the life of President Diaz.

Still another feature of this work, which we think will give it more weight and importance, consists in the characteristic opinions that appear herein, regarding the President's life and career, which many prominent men residing in the United States and Canada have especially prepared for this biography.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all those who have kindly aided in the preparation of the work, which we submit with diffidence to the English speaking people, fully aware that it can lay no claim to great literary merit, but knowing also that its contents are reliable, accurate, and exact.

J. F. G.

New York, January, 1910.

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PORFIRIO DIAZ

PORFIRIO DIAZ

CHAPTER I

BIRTH AND PARENTAGE—SCHOOL AND COLLEGE DAYS

IT is a remarkable coincidence that Porfirio Diaz should have been born on the anniversary of the Mexican independence. His birth took place on the 15th of September, 1830, just twenty years after the great Hidalgo proclaimed, with a handful of patriots, that Mexico should be free.[1]

He was born at the city of Oaxaca, where so many distinguished Mexicans have first seen the light of day; among whom may be mentioned the great President Benito Juarez, the late diplomat and financier Matias Romero, and the able Secretary of Foreign Relations Ignacio Mariscal.

The parents of Porfirio Diaz were José Faustino de la Cruz Diaz and his wife, whose maiden name was Petrona Mori.

[1] Although historically, and as a matter of fact, Mexican independence was proclaimed on the morning of September 16, 1810, tradition and custom have made the celebration of the event to be held on the evening of September 15th.

He lost his father at a very early age, and as his family, consisting of his mother and several brothers and sisters, was not in affluent circumstances, he had to assist with his labor in attending to their necessities, while he was at the same time acquiring his education.

Like the mother of Washington, like the mother of Garfield, and like the mothers of other great men, Petrona Diaz devoted all her time, her energy, and her labor to the rearing and education of her children, unmindful of the great stress, suffering, and work that beset her path. A mother's love triumphed over all obstacles, and at the end she saw her incessant labors rewarded, for she gave an education to her children, started them on the road to success, and thoroughly prepared them to meet the vicissitudes of their respective careers. The character of this noble woman, her perseverance and her self-abnegation indelibly impressed themselves on her son, and have formed some of the traits that have distinguished Porfirio Diaz during his eventful life.

He received his primary instruction in one of the municipal schools of his native city, and there he showed from the first a desire of obtaining knowledge and of taking part in all kinds of athletic sports.

Afterwards he entered the National and Pontifical Seminary of the city of Oaxaca, and remained there from 1845 until 1849. Although his mother at first intended that he should become

a priest, she yielded to his desires, so that he pursued the studies then required to qualify a student for a lawyer's career. It is said that he was always found in the front rank of the best scholars of the seminary.

At that time a student had, in order to attain a degree, to meet great expense, and was obliged to contribute to the outlay necessary for the public exercises to be held in the institution. The pecuniary circumstances of Porfirio Diaz prevented him from meeting such expenses, and he therefore had to forego the attainment of a degree.

While pursuing his studies, the invasion of the national territory by the American troops occurred, and young Porfirio Diaz, with other fellow-students offered his services to the then Governor of the State of Oaxaca. The Governor accepted their patriotic offer, but did not require the young students to go into the battle-field.

It was in 1849 that he entered the Institute of Sciences and Arts of his native state, in order to complete his law studies. In all his classes he showed a desire to master the intricacies of that science and to give heed to the advice and teachings of his professors, one of whom was the renowned Benito Juarez.

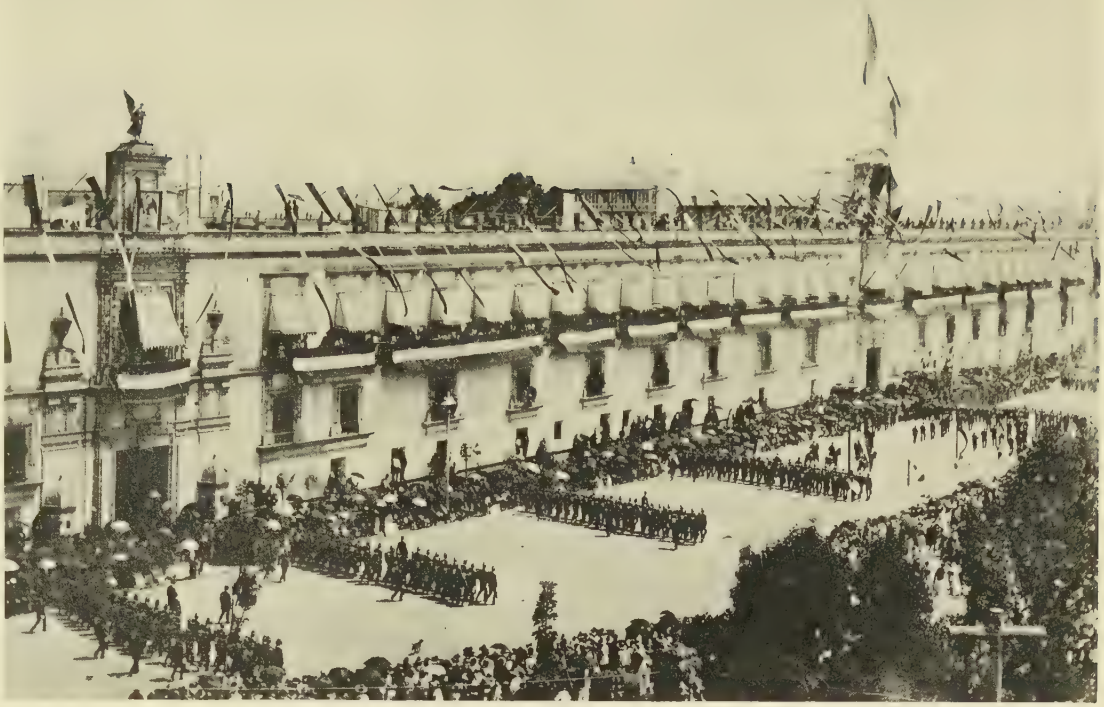
It may be said that ever since the time when he offered his services as a volunteer against the invaders of his country, and while he was scarcely seventeen years of age, the young man who was to become one of Mexico's greatest military

leaders, showed tendencies and desires towards army life. We cannot say that the study of law was distasteful to him, and he undoubtedly would have been received at the bar, if it had not been that subsequent events led him to take part in public affairs and forego a lawyer's career; still it is certain that the dangers and glory of a soldier's life greatly attracted him.

However, there is no doubt that the training that young Diaz had in the study of jurisprudence not only served him greatly afterwards, but has enabled him, when at the head of the government, to understand fully the legal aspect of controversies, the necessity for the reign of law in his country, and the propriety of framing adequate legislation for the attainment of peace and advancement in the Republic.

We can further say that, while pursuing his professional studies, there were instilled in him the true principles of republican and liberal ideas, whether because his professors advocated such principles and his fellow-students likewise admired them, or because his character, his aims, and his pursuits led him into the ranks of the Liberal party, which had already entered into a death struggle with the Conservatives.

It was in the year 1853 that he abandoned the attainment of a lawyer's profession, the lack of a title being the only thing wanting in that career, and he then entered public life.



The National Palace on Independence Day
City of Mexico

CHAPTER II

THE WAR OF REFORM

IT is not our purpose to enter into political controversies, it is not our aim to describe fully the political conditions existing in Mexico during the early years of the life of President Diaz; therefore, we will merely say that, while he was pursuing his studies in the Institute of Sciences and Arts of Oaxaca, the "irrepressible conflict" between the two great political parties was taking place. Those who advocated one set of political principles had to endure the persecution of the other party, and it was owing to this circumstance that some of the professors, who were teaching young Diaz, incurred the displeasure of the Conservative authorities. They were dismissed from their posts and otherwise subjected to indignities, and many of the students who professed their political tenets left the institution and joined the ranks of the opponents of the state government, that had fallen into the hands of the Conservtive party.

Porfirio Diaz was one of the most active of the young students who took sides with the deposed

professors. Orders were issued for his arrest, but he eluded them, and fought his way through his assailants, in December, 1854; finally he joined the forces of the Liberals, who were struggling against the Conservative troops in the mountainous districts of the state. As the opponents to the government were comparatively few in number at that time, they were dispersed after an ineffectual struggle, and Porfirio Diaz was compelled to remain hidden during the months of July and August, 1855, in order to escape the vigilance of his enemies.

It was then that the Liberal party gave its unqualified support throughout the Republic to the "Ayutla Plan," which was, or became, the platform ratified by the Liberal leaders and embodied the principles that received the support of all the members of that party in every district of the country.

The contest between the Liberals and Conservatives, which is known in Mexican history as the "War of Reform," was then carried on with great fierceness, bringing about much bloodshed and suffering. Porfirio Diaz from the first took a most prominent part in that struggle, and in December, 1855, he was appointed subprefect of the district of Ixtlan in his native state. As such he reorganized the public administration of that district, and raised troops to oppose the Conservative forces, which, under the command of the prefect of the department, were sent to crush

him. Speaking of that period of his life, the President himself has said[1]: "In my youth stern experience taught me many things. When I commanded two companies of soldiers, there was a time when for six months I had neither advice, instructions, nor support from my government. I had to think for myself. I had to be the government myself."

It was then that Porfirio Diaz for the first time showed, in a limited degree, his great qualifications as a military leader and as a public official.

It would take too long to describe the vicissitudes of the campaign in which he took part. It is sufficient to say that in all the various encounters with his opponents he showed great military skill, unfaltering courage, as well as commendable humanity towards his enemies. While defeating a large body of the Conservatives on the 13th of August, 1857, he was severely wounded, but as soon as he was able to be on his feet again, and even before he had fully recovered, he re-entered the field and fought bravely against the enemy.

Finally in January, 1858, the power of the Conservatives in the State of Oaxaca was thoroughly crushed, for the time being, and the capital was taken by the Liberal forces, among whom the

[1] All the quotations in this work, which are autobiographic in form, are taken from the *Personal Memoirs of President Diaz*, published in Spanish some years ago by Hon. Matias Romero, late Mexican Ambassador at Washington.

troops led by Porfirio Diaz took a most prominent part. He had not yet been entirely cured, but insisted in leading his soldiers to the assault. Afterwards he was placed at the head of affairs in the district of Tehuantepec and joined in the pursuit of the Conservatives who had not surrendered: they were met at Jalapa, near the capital of the district, and were routed.

Soon after the city of Tehuantepec itself fell into the hands of the Liberals. Porfirio Diaz then acted as governor and military commander of the department. As the majority of the inhabitants of that district were at the time hostile to the Liberal cause, and Porfirio Diaz did not have sufficient pecuniary resources and troops at his command, he had to display great tact, administrative ability, and courage to hold that district in the hands of the Liberals, and on more than one occasion, and especially at Las Jicaras on July 22, 1858, he had to meet his opponents in the open field, being successful in every instance.

During that period in his military career he fell ill, and, while in such condition, his enemies assaulted the post entrusted to his care. He hastily rose from his bed and, sword in hand, by word and action encouraged his soldiers, who seemed to be faltering, and personally led the charge against his opponents. Finally a vertigo seized him and he fell suffering intensely from the fever. His soldiers lifted him from the ground, and he was again removed to his sick bed, but

The Battle of Miahuatlan—October 3, 1866
(From an old print)

not before he knew that his enemies had been defeated.

By that time he had already attained the rank of commandant, or major in his military career. His splendid victory, against great odds and superior forces, at La Mixtequilla on the 17th of June, 1859, gave him the title of Colonel in the National Guard. Upon his taking the city of Tehuantepec on the 25th of November of the same year, he was made colonel in the regular army.

During the years 1858 and 1859 the Conservatives had gained the ascendency throughout the Republic and had established their government in the City of Mexico, while President Benito Juarez remained at Vera Cruz, upholding the principles of the Liberal party. The Liberal leaders had met with many reverses, but at last, towards the summer of 1860, the fortunes of war changed and the Conservatives sustained many defeats. It was then that their power in the State of Oaxaca weakened to such a degree, that they may be said to have governed and extended their authority only in the capital city and through the country surrounding it.

The Liberals attacked that city and captured it on the 3d of August, 1860. Porfirio Diaz had a prominent part in that siege and assault, and was severely wounded in the leg, but this wound did not prevent him from accepting and actively performing the duties of chief of staff.

During the period we refer to, and for several

years afterwards, his younger brother Felix fought by his side with great bravery, and later on met an untimely death.

Towards the end of October, 1860, Porfirio Diaz left Oaxaca with a brigade that was sent to aid General Jesus Gonzalez Ortega, commander-in-chief of the Liberal forces; but that brigade arrived too late to take part in the great victory obtained by Gonzalez Ortega at Calpulalpam against the Conservative forces led by General Miramon, but not too late to participate in the triumphal entry of the Liberal troops in the City of Mexico, which was followed soon after by the restoration of President Benito Juarez.

Porfirio Diaz then returned to Oaxaca in January, 1861, and shortly afterwards was elected a deputy to the Federal Congress by the Ixtlan district of his own state. He left for the City of Mexico and entered Congress. His labors as a legislator were of short duration, because while the power of the Conservatives appeared to have been thoroughly crushed, many of them gathered together, and in June, 1861, had even the hardihood of trying to attack the capital of the Republic, so that Porfirio Diaz considered it his duty to leave the halls of the legislature and again enter military life.

At the head of the brigade of Oaxaca, he was successful in thwarting the attack made by the Conservatives along one of the causeways of the capital; and then with the same brigade he joined

the army corps commanded by General Gonzalez Ortega, that had been sent in pursuit of the Conservative forces.

With this brigade alone, he overcame the troops led by General Leonardo Marquez, near the village of Jalatlaco, and totally crushed his opponents. It was in that battle that Porfirio Diaz came near losing his life at the hands of his enemies, owing his safety to the instinct of his horse, that brought him back safely from the ranks of the Conservatives, which he had entered alone, leading the assault, unattended. That glorious victory was the means of his attaining the rank of brigadier-general.

The Conservatives had yet to make a final stand, and they did so near the city of Pachuca, when they met with a signal defeat at the hands of the Liberals on the 20th of October, 1861. Porfirio Diaz took a most prominent part in that victory, which may be said to have given the death-blow to the power of the Conservatives in Mexico, and to have put an end to the War of Reform.

CHAPTER III

THE WAR OF FRENCH INTERVENTION

WE now come down to the most important and glorious period in the military career of Porfirio Diaz.

The unjustifiable intervention in the domestic affairs of the Mexican Republic by France, England, and Spain, towards the end of the year 1861, led to the invasion of the country by the forces of those three foreign governments. Spain and England soon withdrew, and it was only France, then governed by Emperor Napoleon III, that, assisted by a few Mexicans, led the onslaught against republican institutions in Mexican soil.

The army that was sent by President Juarez to oppose the invaders, in the early part of 1862, comprised the Second Brigade, which was commanded by General Porfirio Diaz.

The very first encounter between the French forces and the Mexican patriots took place at Escamela, between Orizaba and Cordoba. A portion of the brigade of Porfirio Diaz met the enemy there, and afterwards, being reinforced at Acultzingo, gallantly held its own against the invaders.

The Battle of La Carbonera—October 18, 1866
(From an old print)

All the Mexican army then retired towards Puebla, where it arrived on the 3d of May, 1862, and there the general-in-chief, Ignacio Zaragoza, decided to make a stand against the foe.

On the 5th of May the glorious battle, which resulted in a crushing defeat of the French, took place. This brilliant victory is still celebrated every year throughout the Republic. On that occasion Porfirio Diaz commanded his brigade and fought gallantly, and towards the latter part of the day led the pursuit of the vanquished French troops. In his official report of the battle the commander-in-chief of the Mexican army highly praised the bravery displayed by General Diaz.

Thereafter he took charge of the administration of the State of Vera Cruz, as well as of the military operations carried on there against the French forces. These received fresh reinforcements, sent by Napoleon III, and again advanced towards Puebla. General Zaragoza had died, and General Gonzalez Ortega was at the head of the Mexican troops, who held their ground in that city for a period of two months. The heroic deeds achieved by the Mexican defenders in the daily struggles against the besiegers, and in which General Diaz took a prominent part, make a glorious page of Mexican history.

Finally the city had to surrender, and General Diaz fell a prisoner in the hands of the invaders of his country. He and other Mexican officers re-

fused to sign a document, binding themselves not to endeavor to escape, nor to write to or correspond with their families or friends. On that account a sentinel was especially placed to guard him, but Porfirio Diaz succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his guard and finally reached the City of Mexico.

President Juarez wished to appoint him Secretary of War, but as he considered that an older and higher ranking officer should be appointed, Diaz declined the honor proffered him, and merely accepted the command of a division of the army.

When President Juarez decided to leave the City of Mexico, and that city fell into the hands of the invaders, General Diaz continued defending the independence of his country and valiantly fought in the states of Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Puebla. Notwithstanding that, when Archduke Maximilian became head of the so-called empire, proposals were repeatedly made to him to abandon the struggle and receive high honors and emoluments from the Archduke's administration, such offers were always indignantly rejected.

One of his great military feats during the campaign above referred to was the taking of the city of Taxco, where superior forces, well equipped and with abundant ammunition, were not able to cope with the strategy and valor of General Diaz, who led the assault. Very soon after that event, he received the full rank of major-general in the regular army.

We now come down to the period when Field

Marshal Bazaine assumed command of the Imperial troops and laid siege to the city of Oaxaca, where General Diaz, then acting as governor of the state, made a most brilliant defence. The siege lasted several weeks, and when all food and ammunition were exhausted, Porfirio Diaz, seeing that further resistance and sacrifice were useless, surrendered, and then had to endure a long period of imprisonment.

In spite of the renewed efforts of his enemies who offered him liberty and power, he continued to refuse to give his promise not to take up arms again in favor of his country. To one who, at that time and in the name of the so-called empire, offered him high honors and large rewards if he would forsake the Liberal cause, he answered for himself and his fellow soldiers in these noble words: "We are resolved to go on with the struggle unceasingly, and decided to conquer or die in our endeavor, so as to leave to the coming generation the same republic, free and sovereign, that we inherited from our forefathers."

During his imprisonment, he spent several months digging a tunnel from the cell where he was immured. Unfortunately he was removed to another building where, with redoubled vigilance, he was kept confined. Notwithstanding the precautions taken, he contrived to escape. It is interesting to know the manner in which he made his escape, and we will herein insert a translation of his own account of that exploit:

On the afternoon of the 20th, I rolled together three ropes, which I placed with another rope and a dagger under my bedclothes. The dagger was well sharpened and it was the only weapon I had at my disposal.

When the bell rang for the retirement of all in the prison, I stepped upon an open balcony, close to the roofs which overlooked an inner court-yard. I had with me the ropes concealed in a gray cloth, and when I noticed that nobody was near-by, I threw them on the neighboring roof. I then tied my last rope over a projecting stone gutter above, thinking that it was very strong. The light around me was not sufficiently bright to enable me to discern distinctly objects near me. Having tested the strength of the rope and gutter, and becoming satisfied that the latter could support me, I climbed to the roof. There I united this rope to the other three, that I had previously flung overhead.

I had selected as the point where I would make my descent to the street, the corner of San Roque, but the walk to that corner was very dangerous. Near me was the roof of a neighboring church which overlooked all the convent where I was confined, and a picket of soldiers was stationed there, a sentinel being on guard whose sole duty was to watch the prisoners. I started and soon came to a portion of the roof which had many windings, owing to the fact that the convent cells were built between the corridors and several rows of arches. I wended my way along, concealing myself every time I could, and often having to crawl on my hands and knees. I went on slowly and as a matter of course towards the sentinel, while seeking the place from which I had to make my descent.

Escape of Porfirio Diaz, Puebla, September, 1865

I had to cross two sides of the court-yard, and this I had to do carefully, in order to make no noise while stepping on the loose pieces of tile and glass, which were scattered over the roof. While I was doing this, the lightning at times brightened the sky, making it possible that my presence would be revealed.

Finally I came to that portion of the wall, where the sentinel, standing on the church parapet, could no longer see me, unless he looked down very low. I continued walking erect and slowly, trying to find out if any alarm had been raised. It was then that I encountered the greatest danger, for the masonry sloped and was very slippery, especially after the heavy rains that had fallen. In fact once my feet slipped, and I was carried along towards some window panes, which could have offered little resistance to my weight; but fortunately I did not fall.

In order to reach the roof on San Roque Street, where I wished to descend, I had to go over to the side of the convent where the chaplain resided. This chaplain some time before had denounced several political prisoners who, while trying to escape, had cut their way through his rooms, and owing to his evidence they were taken out and shot soon afterwards.

I came to the roof of the chaplain's residence almost out of breath. Just then a young man, who resided there, opened the street door and entered; he seemed to have come from the theatre, for he was humming a lively tune. He went into his room, and then came out with a lighted candle and started to walk in the direction where I was. I hid while he was passing, and fortunately he did not see me; finally he went again into the house. All this probably took a few minutes, but those minutes seemed to me hours.

When it appeared to me that he had been in his room some time, and had gone to bed and perhaps was sleeping, I stealthily went along the roof opposite to the place where I had ascended, and finally reached the San Roque corner.

There was at that corner of the roof a stone statue of Saint Vincent Ferrer, and it had been my intention to secure my ropes around it, but unluckily when I touched the statue, it seemed to be about to fall. Although I imagined that it might have an iron support to make it stand erect, I thought it safer to secure the ropes around the base of its pedestal, which formed the corner of the building and appeared to be strong enough to bear my weight.

Fearing that if I went down directly at the corner of the street I might be seen by some passer-by, I decided to descend by the side of the house which was further from the main street, thereby having the advantage of being in the shadow. Unfortunately, when I got to the second story, my foot slipped from the side wall, and I fell quite a distance into a pigs' sty in a garden. My dagger dropped from my belt and fell among the pigs, and when I stumbled over them, they set up a terrible squealing, as perhaps one of them had been wounded. This circumstance might have led to my discovery if anybody had been aroused by the noise they made. I concealed myself again as soon as I got up, but had to wait until the squealing had subsided, before venturing out of the garden. I went over a low fence and reached the street, but had to beat a hasty retreat, as a policeman was just passing by in his round, to see whether the doors of the houses were properly fastened. Much to my relief he went away and then perspiring and nearly

exhausted with fatigue, I hastened to a house where I knew I would find my horse, a servant, and a guide.

Having arrived safely there, we three loaded our pistols, jumped on our saddles, and after avoiding a mounted patrol which was passing by, we went to the outskirts of the city. I was nearly sure that we would be stopped at the city gates by the sentinels, and it was my intention to fight my way out. However, we found the gate open, the guard seemed to be asleep or away, so that we went through at full trot, and then galloped along the road.

We have given a detailed account of this remarkable escape of President Diaz from his foes, both because we consider it interesting reading, and because it is a sample of the various hairbreadth escapes that he had during his military career.

While his enemies set a price on his head and were vainly endeavoring to recapture him, General Diaz gathered fourteen cavalrymen, and with them began his third campaign against the Imperialists.

By June, 1866, he had already quite a small army under his orders. Then followed the brilliant victories he obtained at Nochixtlan, on September 23d, at Miahuatlan on the 3d of October, and at La Carbonera on the 18th of the same month; the latter being such a well earned and glorious triumph over the enemy, that General Diaz thereafter was often styled "the hero of La Carbonera."

We cannot forbear making more than a passing

reference to these last two victories, won by General Diaz in a most brilliant manner. At Miahuatlan he had only 900 poorly armed soldiers and lacked ammunition, whilst the enemy consisted of 1400 men, well equipped and having two pieces of artillery. The moral effect of that battle was great, and it served to raise the spirits and the patriotic ardor of all Mexicans throughout the Republic. At La Carbonera, although the opposing forces were nearly equal in number, the Imperialists were regular troops, consisting of French, Austrians, and Hungarians and some Mexican auxiliaries, and had six field pieces; whilst the patriot army was made up of less efficient troops and fewer guns. This victory left in the hands of General Diaz 700 prisoners and five cannon, while all the infantry officers of the enemy were captured.

Thereafter he besieged the city of Oaxaca, and during a period of twenty days there were incessant encounters with the besieged, who at last surrendered on the 31st of October, 1866. The number of prisoners then taken was 1100, and a large amount of ammunition and thirty cannon fell into the hands of the victors.

During the month of December, he defeated the enemy in different localities near Tehuantepec, and then he prepared his forces for the onslaughts on the so-called empire, which were to take place at the cities of Puebla and Mexico, while the final and last act of the tragedy of the French interven-

The Battle of San Lorenzo—April 10, 1867
(From an old print)

tion in Mexico was being enacted at the city of Queretaro, and terminated with the execution of Maximilian and his two generals, Miramon and Mejia, at the Campanas hill near that city.

We do not wish to use language that might be considered exaggerated in any degree, but the taking of the city of Puebla by General Diaz on April 2, 1867, must ever remain one of the most brilliant pages in Mexican history.

Two circumstances render the surrender of Puebla at that time as most remarkable and interesting. In all other instances when that city had been besieged, it had fallen into the hands of the victors after incessant and daily combats, lasting through weeks and months, but in this case Puebla, after a few days of siege operations, was taken by the energetic and vigorous onslaught of the Mexican patriots led by their leader General Diaz, and a few hours of bloody struggle brought about the unconditional surrender of the garrison. The other circumstance to which we may refer is that, although the Imperialists, about the time when the taking of Puebla occurred, had cruelly shot many of the prisoners who had fallen into their hands in various encounters, General Diaz, with his customary humanity and magnanimity, spared the lives of all those who surrendered.

Without loss of time he gathered his forces and fell like a thunderbolt on the hosts of the enemy. He thoroughly routed his opponents, who were under the command of General Leonardo Marquez,

at San Lorenzo, on the 10th of the same month, April, 1867.

Immediately he marched on towards the City of Mexico, to which he laid siege. At first he had not sufficient forces to thoroughly establish the field operations and surround the capital; but gradually fresh troops came, and with the guns and ammunition captured at Puebla and San Lorenzo, he was able to prevent any successful sortie from the capital. The capture of Maximilian and his generals at Queretaro on May 15th, became known to the besieged and proved most disheartening news. Still General Marquez would not surrender, and on the morning of June 9th he tried to cut his way through the lines of the besiegers, but General Diaz ever watchful thwarted his purpose.

Finally the city capitulated. The siege had lasted from the 12th of April till the 21st of June, 1867.

CHAPTER IV

THE RESTORATION OF THE REPUBLIC

UPON entering the capital of the Republic with his forces, General Diaz avoided adopting any harsh measures towards his enemies, established proper police administration for the city, preserved public order, and safeguarded the lives and property of its inhabitants. He administered its municipal affairs, until President Juarez and his Cabinet returned on July 15, 1867, to assume the full administration of the Republic. General Diaz, during his brief stay at the head of the city government, elicited the commendations of all classes of society; the municipality through its Common Council tendered him a vote of thanks, and he was able to turn over to the general government a surplus of $300,000, over and above all the expenses incurred, while he had been at the head of affairs.

He was offered the office of Secretary of War, or the command of one of the divisions of the army, but as he considered that the Republic was fully restored, and his services could be spared, he preferred to retire from public life, and he did so,

like Cincinnatus of old, going to live on a small farm, called La Noria, in his native state.

Later events brought him again into public life, and he was acclaimed by a large portion of his countrymen as a presidential candidate. The triangular contest then ensued between the partisans of Diaz, Juarez and Lerdo de Tejada. The elections were held and political dissensions began, which gave rise to civil war.

During that fierce contest General Diaz suffered great hardships, but he never flinched nor deserted his friends and partisans, who at all times followed him on to victory, and never were cast down by defeat. The political principles which he then sustained were embodied in a document, called "Plan de La Noria," having been prepared and given out to his countrymen at the country place, where he was residing at that time as already stated.

The sudden death of President Juarez terminated the fratricidal struggle, and thereafter Lerdo de Tejada was elevated to the chief magistracy of the nation, with the acquiescence of the followers and admirers of General Diaz.

During Lerdo's administration and in the year 1874, Porfirio Diaz was elected a member of Congress. His friends again looked upon him as the presidential candidate for the coming election, and public opinion began to manifest itself in his favor.

It was then that President Lerdo de Tejada,

Taking of Puebla—April 2, 1867
(From a Painting)

through a mutual friend, proposed to him the post of Minister Plenipotentiary at Berlin, which he declined.

Soon after the electoral campaign began. The attempt to re-elect President Lerdo de Tejada against the will of the majority of the people, and other causes which it would take too long to rehearse, led to the breaking out of civil war; the opposers of the administration upholding the "Plan of Tuxtepec,"[1] which embodied the party program or platform of those who supported General Diaz for the presidency.

As Daniel Webster has expressed it: "There are enterprises, military as well as civil, which sometimes check the current of events, give a new turn to human affairs and transmit their consequences through ages." Such an enterprise was the one that General Diaz undertook at the time referred to.

If it were possible in this work to relate the incidents of the new contest, the resourcefulness, activity, and tenacity of General Diaz in upholding the political principles or platform that had been proclaimed at Tuxtepec, and afterwards modified at Palo Alto[2] on the 21st of March, 1876, would still further be made patent and manifest. Suffice it to say, however, that he and his followers fought

[1] Tuxtepec is a small town in the northern part of the State of Oaxaca.

[2] A small farm in the northern part of the Republic, not far from the city of Matamoros.

bravely in various states of the Republic, and had their ups and downs in the fortunes of war.

At one time President Diaz left the country and went over to the United States, and, after having been in New York and other cities, embarked at New Orleans for Vera Cruz. During that trip one of his many hair-breadth escapes occurred. He entered the steamer in disguise, because the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico, for which it was bound, were in the hands of the partisans of Lerdo de Tejada. While at the latter port some government troops took passage for Vera Cruz. Several of the officers recognized him, and began to watch him closely. He therefore decided to elude their vigilance and threw himself overboard, providing himself with a dagger as a defence against sharks. His escape became known, and thereupon boats were lowered and started in his pursuit. He swam with great skill, but the boats at last gained on him and he was captured. When taken on board he was well-nigh exhausted. Thereupon the officer commanding the government troops attempted to court-martial him on the spot, but the ship's captain would not consent to this inhuman and arbitrary proceeding, and merely permitted that he should be held a prisoner until the steamer's arrival at Vera Cruz, there to be delivered to the authorities of that port. A close watch was set upon him, but during the next night, which was very dark, and while a storm was threatening, he left his cabin unperceived, and sought refuge

in the office of Mr. A. K. Coney, the purser, who had befriended him.

Thereupon he threw a life preserver into the sea, and this led the government officers to believe that he had again jumped overboard. A fruitless search in boats then ensued, while he hid in the locker or wardrobe of the purser's cabin. There he had to endure great suffering, having to remain crouched and not being able to sit down. He even experienced the immediate fear of being discovered, as on more than one occasion Lerdo's officers entered the purser's cabin, stayed conversing there, and even played cards. His self-imprisonment lasted several days, during which time he lived on some crackers and water, which the purser gave him from time to time.

At last Vera Cruz was reached, but there he was still in great danger, as the city was in the hands of the government forces. Fortunately one of the friends of Porfirio Diaz was able to smuggle a disguise for him on board, and in that costume he contrived to leave the ship's side in a row boat, which landed him far from the city, where some of his followers awaited his arrival.

Thenceforward he continued the struggle with greater success than theretofore. However a further complication arose, inasmuch as the chief justice of the supreme court, José Maria Iglesias, having held that, owing to the illegality of the elections, Lerdo de Tejada could no longer be considered president, he, as the chief justice, who

under the Constitution was the vice-president of the Republic, was entitled to be considered the chief magistrate of the nation.

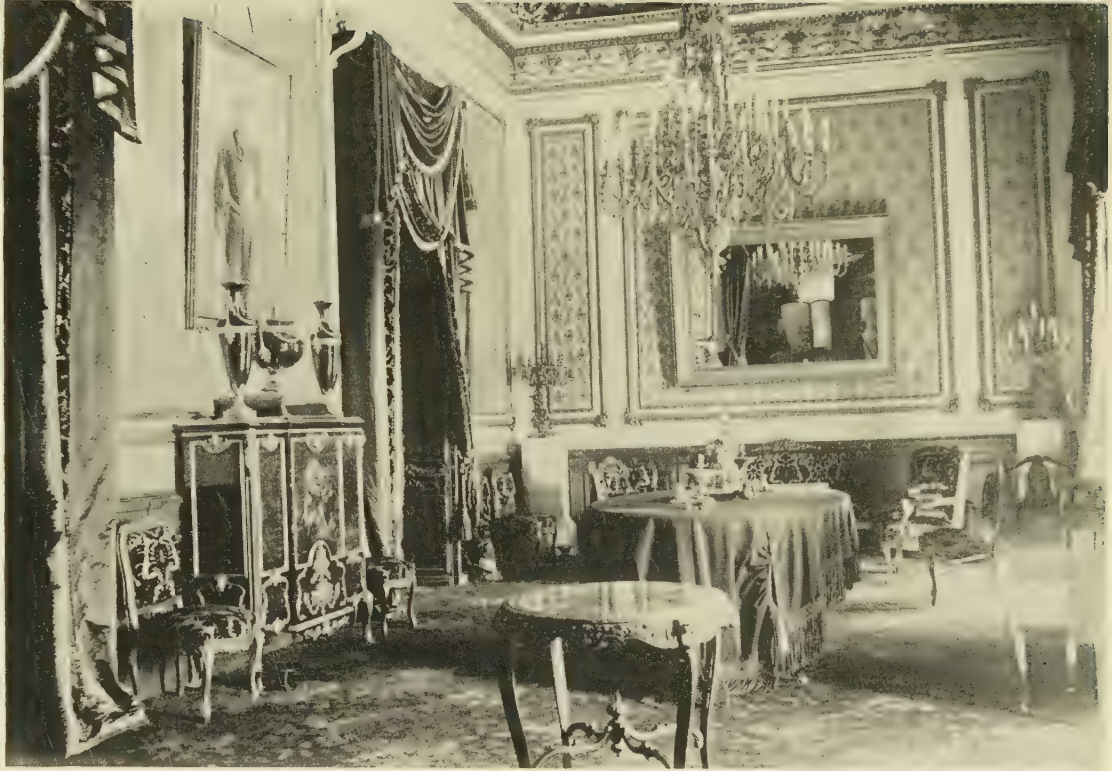
Mr. Iglesias withdrew from the capital, formed a cabinet and retired to the interior of the Republic, proclaiming himself constitutional president. On their side the supporters of General Diaz again gathered in strength, declared that the elections lately held were void, and that new elections should be had. President Lerdo de Tejada prepared for the coming struggle and collected troops, which he sent under the command of a well experienced military leader, General Ignacio Alatorre, to put down his two opponents.

There is no doubt whatever that public opinion and sentiment throughout the Republic were in favor of General Diaz, and therefore well observing persons considered that the final issue of the contest would be favorable to him.

The supporters of Chief Justice Iglesias melted away and left him, as it were, alone with his cabinet, and he then with his friends departed for the United States, landing soon after in San Francisco, California.

The troops led by General Alatorre were defeated at Tecoac by the supporters of General Diaz, led by himself and by General Manuel Gonzalez. Thereupon President Lerdo de Tejada precipitately left the Republic and went to New York City, where he spent the rest of his life.

The inhabitants of the City of Mexico welcomed



One of the President's Reception Rooms—National Palace
City of Mexico

the arrival of General Diaz, and soon after General Juan N. Mendez, was placed in charge of the executive power, and in December, 1876, new elections were ordered to be held.

The large majority, which the candidacy of General Diaz obtained, conclusively proved that the people wished him to be at the head of the administration of public affairs, and that they considered him the statesman who could adopt measures and carry out a policy that would preserve peace and foster public improvements.

CHAPTER V

FIRST ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT DIAZ

ELECTIONS were held for members of Congress, and on the 1st of April, 1877, that legislative body met, and a month thereafter formally declared that General Diaz had been elected president of the Republic by the nearly unanimous vote cast in 200 electoral districts. Although in some districts elections were not held, owing to various causes, the omission thus occurring would not have in any way altered the result. As this election was considered a ratification of the former one, the term of office of President Diaz was held to extend until the 30th of November, 1880.

He immediately inaugurated the plan which he has always followed, of living unostentatiously. He therefore declined to reside in the National Palace, and dwelt in a house of very modest appearance in Moneda Street, going to the Palace every day to transact business and to be present at all public functions.

One of the first tasks of his government was the re-establishment of friendly relations with foreign countries; but at the inception of his administrative

labors, he encountered some difficulties with the American Government, which refused to acknowledge that his authority over the Republic was thoroughly established. It may be said, therefore, that for some time the relations between Mexico and the United States were somewhat strained.

Another branch of his administration to which he gave at once particular attention, was the fostering of enterprises with foreign capital, especially the construction of railways. It is from that time that the great railroad era for Mexico commenced.

It may be supposed that the partisans of Lerdo de Tejada and Iglesias did not look with favor on the new administration, and therefore it is no wonder that conspiracies and plots for the overthrow of the new government were initiated.

Among these the most serious one was to have led to an outbreak in Vera Cruz in June, 1877, and the conspirators who had followers in other states, and even in the capital of the Republic, thought that the success of their plans was assured. Some of the garrison were made to join in the machinations of the enemies of the Diaz administration, and even the crews of the war despatch boats *Independencia* and *Libertad* rose in mutiny. Prompt measures were adopted, and although through some misunderstanding several of those who were considered ringleaders were hastily condemned to death and executed, the severity and promptness

of their sentence struck terror among their fellow conspirators, and the revolution was smothered at its very birth.

It was also during the first year of the new administration that General Mariano Escobedo invaded the Republic from Texas, but both he and the other partisans of Lerdo de Tejada who had risen in arms in the states of Tamaulipas and Sinaloa were defeated. They were magnanimously pardoned by the President, who then inaugurated his far-seeing and able policy of attracting his enemies to his side and making them his friends; and thus we see that all Mexicans thereafter, irrespective of party affiliations, worked in common accord under his guidance, for the establishment of peace throughout the Republic.

Measures were then enacted and carried into effect for the increase of the public revenue, for the proper and honest administration of all public funds, for the encouragement of agricultural and mining enterprises and for the adequate administration of justice throughout the country.

In 1880 General Ulysses S. Grant, whose friendliness towards Mexico was well known, visited the Republic, and was extended a most cordial and enthusiastic reception by the government and the people. This courteous treatment of one of the greatest American military chieftains, served to strengthen the bonds of friendship between both countries, and marked, as it were, the beginning of the great popularity that Presi-

General Porfirio Diaz
In his earlier administrations

dent Diaz enjoys in the United States, and which soon after was exemplified by his own cordial reception in that country, to which we will refer hereafter.

During the period of the first administration of President Diaz, the salaries of all public employees were paid, the instalment due yearly to the United States Government, by virtue of the award made by the Mixed Claims Commission, was punctually cancelled; the importations and exportations notably increased, the latter being about $24,000,000 in 1879, and $32,000,000 in 1880, and railroad and telegraph lines were inaugurated and other public improvements established. In point of fact, all branches of the public service were attended to properly, and a degree of prosperity was experienced throughout the country.

At the beginning of 1880, the question of the presidential succession, that had been agitated, was at fever heat, and several candidates were in the field. General Manuel Gonzalez was the one who had the larger and more important following, and although many people wished that President Diaz might be re-elected, as at that period there was a constitutional prohibition with regard to the re-election of the president, he would not allow his name to be put forward, and at the same time abstained from exerting a direct influence in support of any of the leading candidates.

General Gonzalez received a large majority of votes, and Congress duly declared him the successor of President Diaz.

On the first of December, 1880, General Gonzalez assumed the reins of government, and for the second time in Mexican history there occurred the peaceful transmission of power from one president to his successor.

President Diaz could justly say, at the termination of his first administration, that his policy had been from the first, in the words of the martyred President Abraham Lincoln: "To do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

CHAPTER VI

HIS MARRIAGE AND TRAVELS

WHEN President Diaz turned over the administration to General Manuel Gonzalez, he expressed himself in the following words:

My aim has been to attain peace through the strict observance of the Constitution: and as peace cannot be lasting without prosperity, or the sure and proximate hope of obtaining it, all my efforts have tended towards its promotion, especially by giving due impetus to interior, as well as to foreign, commerce. The result of my labors is just beginning to be noticed, and I have no doubt that you will know how to continue a work that is so greatly desired by the people at large.

Privately he assured his successor that he could command his services, should he consider them in any way necessary or proper for the success of his administration. President Gonzalez immediately accepted that offer, and appointed General Diaz Secretary of the Department of Public Promotion. The latter devoted to that department all the energy and talent, that he has always shown in all public positions he has held.

The first work he accomplished in that department was his inspection of the port of Tampico, where, accompanied by the celebrated engineer, Captain Eads, he laid the foundations for the great improvements to be carried on in that important port of the Republic. He accomplished other labors in the department under his charge, and initiated various public improvements; but in May, 1881, he noticed that some of his colleagues in the Cabinet, or several of the most ardent partisans of General Gonzalez seemed to be jealous of the influence he exerted, or that they thought he did exert, over the President; he also noticed the continued affection and popularity that he seemed to enjoy, and not desirous of being an impediment or obstruction in the path of the administration, General Diaz resigned his post as Secretary of Public Promotion.

Soon after, however, he was elected a member of the Federal Senate, as well as Governor of his native State of Oaxaca. It seemed to him that he could be of greater service to his country in the latter capacity, and therefore he accepted the governorship.

He did not find the administration of the state in a very flourishing condition: the public treasury was exhausted; many public schools had been closed, owing to the lack of funds for their support; the public expenses were unnecessarily high and the public revenues were unfortunately very low.

He commenced his administration under these

Carmen Romero Rubio de Diaz
Wife of the President

unfavorable circumstances, and immediately set to work to correct the abuses then existing, to improve the financial condition of the state and to promote public improvements. One of these, and a most important one, was the construction of a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec which, in later years, was to be justly considered one of the greatest feats of engineering in the Republic, if taken in connection with the most important harbor works afterwards carried on at Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos (now Puerto Mexico). Great strides were made in the state in the Department of Public Instruction, as he reopened the public schools that had been closed and also inaugurated three hundred additional ones and an institute for manual training.

After having placed the administration of the state on a sound basis, he asked leave of absence from the Legislature, and went to the capital of the Republic to enjoy a well needed rest.

General Diaz had been married to the daughter of Doctor Ortega Reyes, and after a happy union with her, she died during his first administration. At the time when he returned to the City of Mexico he had been a widower for some years.

It was then that he renewed the acquaintance of the noted statesman and lawyer, Manuel Romero Rubio, who had been a member of the last Cabinet of Ex-President Lerdo de Tejada, and who therefore had been his political opponent. It was soon noticed that the frequent visits of General

Diaz to Mr. Romero Rubio's house, were mainly due to his love towards the eldest daughter Carmen, whose beauty and accomplishments, as well as her charming disposition, made her one of the most popular and beloved young ladies in the best society circles of the capital. He became engaged to her and in 1882 they were married, their marriage being one of the most important social events at the time.

During their honeymoon they visited the United States, where they were most cordially and enthusiastically received. They went to Washington, New York and other leading cities of the American Union, and although General Diaz would have wished to avoid all public manifestations, he could not prevent the government and people of the United States from showing him and Mrs. Diaz the high esteem in which they were held. There were balls, banquets, and numerous other entertainments and excursions given in their honor.

Highly pleased with their trip, and grateful to the American people and officials for their kindness and real affection shown them, General and Mrs. Diaz returned to the City of Mexico, and went to live unostentatiously at their new home in Humboldt Street, which is now occupied by his son Lieutenant Colonel Diaz and family.

Even before his return the voters of the country in general looked to him as the probable successor of General Gonzalez. Some of the friends of the

latter statesman would have wished to have him continue in office, in spite of the then existing constitutional prohibition as to the re-election of the chief magistrate of the Republic, but public opinion seemed opposed to this plan. During the last year of President Gonzalez's administration it was plain to all that his logical successor would be General Diaz. It must be said that President Gonzalez himself became convinced of that fact and did not antagonize the trend of public sentiment, which finally, in the summer of 1884, brought about the election of General Diaz by an overwhelming majority.

The last public office that General Diaz held during the administration of President Gonzalez was that of Commissioner General of the Mexican Department to the International Exposition held at New Orleans, La., during the winter of 1884–85.

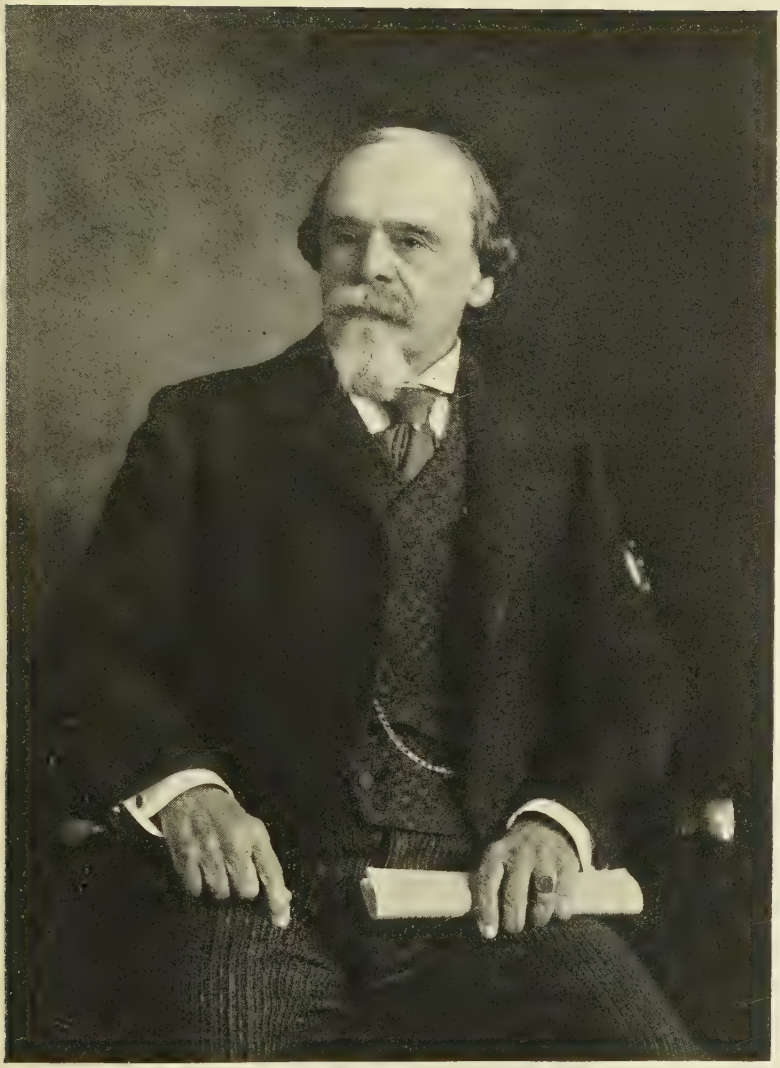
It was mainly due to his popularity, to his untiring energy, and to his well directed efforts, that the Mexican Department attained such great success at that exposition. It was then really that the people of the United States had the first opportunity to get a thorough knowledge of the great natural resources of Mexico and of the condition of its manufactures, which promised to attain higher development. The Mexican exhibit elicited most favorable comments from the American press, ever ready to render Mexico due praise for its advancement.

The last months of the administration of Presi-

dent Gonzalez were rather unfortunate, inasmuch as the over-issue of nickel coins, the proposed settlement of the so-called "English Debt," the issuance of certain stamp taxes and other measures which were considered impolitic and unwise, aroused public opposition in the press and in Congress.

The stormy sessions held by the Chamber of Deputies in the winter of 1884, and the bitter denunciations of the government by the newspapers, it is considered by many, might have led to a public outbreak, or even to a revolution, had it not been known that in the elections lately held, General Diaz had been the successful candidate, as already stated, and the thorough conviction that the opponents of the administration had, that under the new government public abuses would be abolished and proper measures adopted to correct all errors made, to restore public confidence and to dispel any fears of public disorder or discredit.

On the 1st of December, 1884, General Gonzalez turned over the reins of government to President Diaz, and the latter again took charge of the administration of the nation.



Ignacio Mariscal
Secretary of Foreign Relations

CHAPTER VII

NEW PRESIDENTIAL TERM FROM 1884 TO 1888

BESET with great difficulties, especially as regards finances, President Diaz began his new term of office by appointing as members of his Cabinet, the following well known and public spirited statesmen, namely: Ignacio Mariscal, Secretary of Foreign Relations; Manuel Romero Rubio, Secretary of the Interior; Joaquin Baranda, Secretary of Justice and Public Instruction; Carlos Pacheco, Secretary of Public Promotion; General Pedro Hinojosa, Secretary of War and Navy, and Manuel Dublan, Secretary of Finance.

President Diaz found the Treasury in a depleted condition, heavy debts were outstanding, the salaries of public employees were greatly in arrears, and much difficulty was experienced in the collection of sufficient revenue to pay in part current expenses. The financial question was, therefore, the one that necessarily first claimed the attention of the Executive.

In desperate cases it is necessary to use desperate remedies, and therefore on the 22d of June, 1885, and thereafter, stringent measures were adopted for the funding of the public debt,

the proper collection of the revenues and their possible increase, the diminution of unnecessary expenses in all departments of the government and even the taxation of salaries of public employees, such salaries, however, being paid with due regularity.

The policy pursued by President Diaz at this time may well be described in the words of Macaulay: "The real statesman is he who, in troubled times, keeps down the turbulent without unnecessarily harassing the well affected; and who, when great pecuniary resources are needed, provides for the public exigencies, without violating the security of property and drying up the sources of future prosperity."

It was at the beginning of this presidential term that serious difficulties arose, with regard to the relations between Mexico and Guatemala, owing to the plan adopted by President Rufino Barrios to assume the control of the administration of the five Central American republics, against the express wishes of the inhabitants and governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Mexico could do no less than protest against the illegal acts of President Barrios. However, the death of that leader in the battle of Chalchuapa put an end to those difficulties, as the new administration of Guatemala nullified all the acts of its former Executive and peace was restored in the Central American republics. During that agitated period an army corps of 18,000 men was stationed at the

Guatemalan frontier, which was promptly withdrawn when all danger of international conflict disappeared.

The reference made by President Diaz in one of his messages to Congress in 1885 to the Guatemalan incident, is worth quoting, as therein he reaffirms the wisdom of well known principles of international law.

He said:

Congress may remember the attitude assumed by the Executive, when General Justo Rufino Barrios decreed by his own will the union of the five Central American republics. The policy we so pursued met with the approval, not only of a large majority in our country, but also among other nations that uphold the theory that the old right of conquest should not prevail among the free peoples of America. General Barrios' death in the battlefield of Chalchuapa, and the repeal of the measures of that ill advised President, as adopted by the Provisional Government of Guatemala, put an end to the war, and to the difficulties that thereby ensued to us. The heroic bravery of the patriots who defended their autonomy and the immediate signing of the peace treaty brought about a satisfactory solution of that conflict, to which solution the whole civilized world could not forbear to give its approval; and what has occurred has served to again demonstrate the principle that the respect for the sovereignty of nations, however small and weak they may be, must lie at the basis of international law.

President Diaz, as in former times, gave all

encouragement to the fostering of new mining enterprises, to the construction of new railroads, and to the establishment of new steamship lines, while, as far as it was possible, the telegraph lines and the mail facilities in the Republic were duly increased. It was also during this period that new impetus was given to the important works of drainage of the valley of Mexico.

In the State of Sonora the Yaqui Indians, and in the State of Yucatan the Mayas rose in arms in some outlying districts, but government forces soon put an end to their incursions. A local disturbance occurred in the State of Zacatecas, which some feared might assume greater proportions under the leadership of General Garcia de la Cadena, but his death put an end to such illegal agitation.

The credit of Mexico abroad attained a most satisfactory condition, and from that time, it may be said, with perfect truth, that Mexico's public credit in Europe and in the United States has been considered first class, and that the name of President Diaz has given to all Mexican obligations, during his successive administrations, the seal of honesty and solvency on the part of the nation, which formerly did not enjoy any credit in the financial markets of the world.

It was during this presidential term that Mexico, recognizing the importance of its diplomatic mission in the United States, built and furnished an appropriate residence for its Minister.

Post-Office
City of Mexico

A passing reference may be made here to the once celebrated Cutting case, which was a controversy arising from the sentence by a Mexican judge of an American writer accused of having libelled at El Paso a Mexican citizen, and of having caused such libel to be circulated in Mexican territory. That case gave rise to annoying controversies in the press of both countries, and to the interchange of very able and interesting notes between both governments, which finally led to the satisfactory termination of this disagreeable incident.

The success attained by President Diaz in this period of his administration made all patriotic Mexicans consider it necessary to have the Federal Constitution amended in such a way as to permit his re-election. This was done by the express vote of the legislatures of all the states, and in due compliance with constitutional enactments.

In order to give a further outline of the administrative work done in this period, we will quote some paragraphs from the last message of President Diaz to Congress, which he delivered on the 16th of September 1888, after the presidential elections had been held, and he had been almost unanimously re-elected Chief Magistrate of the Republic.

After stating that public order and peace prevailed throughout the country, and that the international relations of Mexico with all foreign countries were most friendly and satisfactory, he said:

The elections held for the renewal of the federal authorities have taken place, under the peaceful conditions existing in our territory. No political question, not even of a local character, has disturbed during the recess of Congress, the public order and harmony fortunately existing between the federal and state governments. These favorable circumstances have allowed all to devote their attention to public and administrative improvements, to the progress of public instruction, and to daily strengthen public security, and all these factors have proved of great influence and still continue to give a good reputation to the Mexican nation."

With reference to public improvements, the President stated that the aggregate extent of railroad lines in the Republic amounted to 7500 kilometers, that the telegraph lines had been increased by 950 kilometers, and that the works of improvement in Vera Cruz harbor were being carried on with due regularity.

With regard to the Department of Finances, the President said in part as follows:

The work of reorganizing the public finances is going on, but like every other administrative reform of importance, it will require some time to have it carried out to a satisfactory conclusion. Nevertheless it may be stated that, although the financial situation is not entirely prosperous, there are circumstances which rightly make us hope that it is continuing along the road of improvement; because the Republic shows at the present moment an extraordinary development of the elements which constitute national wealth.

The Treasury has been able to fully meet all payments decreed in the appropriation bills, thanks to the increase in the federal revenues. This is due to the enhancement in the value of private property, the development of commerce, and the greater exportation of Mexican products, as well as to the favorable condition of our credit, which never has been as high as it is now.

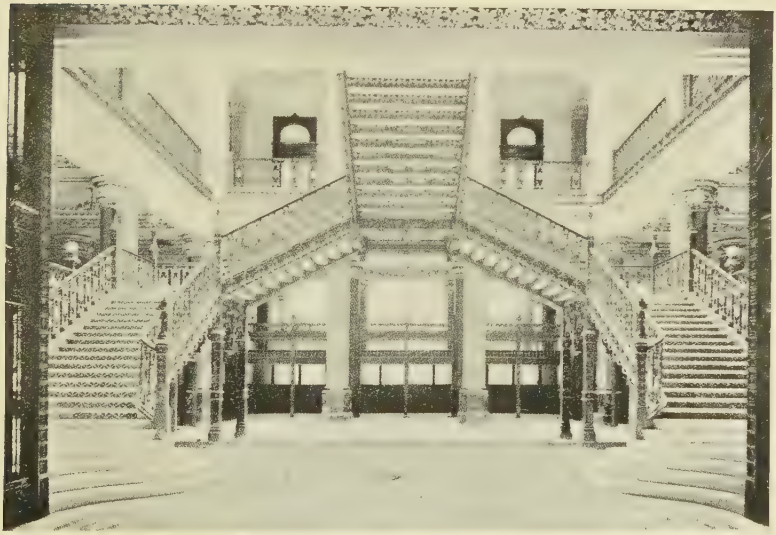
Farther along in his message he says: "The exportations of national products rose during the last fiscal year to $48,745,560. . . . The revenues continued to improve. During the last fiscal year which ended on the 30th of June, the total revenues amounted to $32,508,564."

The closing paragraph of the message of President Diaz is well worth quoting in full:

Since November, 1884, the development of the country, which at first was difficult, became afterwards more rapid and has had a continuous increase, in perfect accord with the development of the public administration whose advancement, although laborious has been sure, and to which I made reference in my former message. Public improvements, such as railroad and telegraph lines, as well as all the elements of public wealth which then existed have had a most satisfactory increase: and public credit which, owing to inveterate errors, as well as to unfortunate circumstances, had made it entirely nugatory, has become favorable to Mexico both at home and abroad, and every day has been consolidated and served to attract foreign capital and industry, which formerly seemed to avoid our country.

Although President Diaz, with his customary modesty, ends his message by saying that the results attained at the end of his presidential term, were not due to his own unaided efforts, but to the assistance that he received for such labors from the people at large and his advisers, there is no doubt that his name, his tact, his activity and his well devised plans were the leading factors in the success of his administration.

Upper Stories



Staircases

Post-Office—Mexico City

CHAPTER VIII

FROM 1888 TO 1892

THE elections held throughout the Republic resulted overwhelmingly in favor of the candidacy of President Diaz, and after the due ratification of such election by Congress, he was again inaugurated on the 1st of December, 1888. The public rejoicing over this event plainly showed that the people at large gave the seal of their approval to the administrative acts of his government, and that they desired that his policies should be continued.

From the beginning of this new term, it was manifest that President Diaz wished to extend the influence of Mexico abroad, and to let his country be known in all the leading nations of the globe.

It was with this end in view, that a treaty for the establishment of an International Boundary Commission between the United States and Mexico, was entered into, the negotiations for a new extradition treaty between the two countries were commenced, and treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation with Great Britain and

Japan were concluded, while other international pacts with various nations were being negotiated.

Among the countries that at that time entered into friendly relations with Mexico, we may mention Brazil, Japan, Russia, and the Argentine Republic.

In October, 1889, the first Pan-American Conference opened its sessions at the city of Washington, D. C. Mexico took part in that international gathering and was ably represented by Minister Matias Romero and General Enrique A. Mexia, both now deceased. It is needless to say that said Conference was as greatly advantageous to the United States Government and its people who promoted the meeting, as to the governments and countries which took part in the same.

We may make here passing reference to two incidents that occurred in 1890, which showed that the friendly relations between Mexico and the United States could not be disturbed through slight causes.

When presenting his credentials to the Costa Rican Government, the American Minister to that country uttered some phrases, which rightly wounded the susceptibility of the Mexican Government. Upon the proper complaint being made in Washington, the Government of the United States rebuked its diplomatic representative for his conduct in this case.

The other incident refers to the ill-advised proposed purchase of the territory of Lower Califor-

nia. President Diaz in his message to Congress, on April 18, 1890, alluded to this matter in the following words:

It seems that a happy termination has been had regarding the disagreeable incident initiated by the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, in California, and seconded by the government of that state, with reference to their proposition to negotiate with us the sale of Lower California; since lately, owing to a report of the American Secretary of State, wherein he showed the impossibility of such negotiation because it was entirely opposed to the unanimous sentiment of the Mexican people and Government, the Senate of that Republic unanimously resolved not to take such proposal into consideration. Thus, disagreeable discussions on that subject will be avoided, although at all events the resolution of the Mexican Government in regard to this matter would have been the same, because it never could be other than that approved by the universal sentiment of our people.

It was also at the beginning of this term of office that due attention was given to the improvement of public hygiene, the construction of a national penitentiary was rapidly pushed on, while the survey and sale of public lands were duly attended to.

The death of Ex-President Lerdo de Tejada in the city of New York having occurred, his remains were brought to Mexico City and an imposing funeral was held there, at which President Diaz,

all the members of his Cabinet, and the leading statesmen of the Republic were present.

Mexico was well represented at the Universal Exposition held in Paris in 1889, and the number of premiums obtained by its exhibitors showed the importance of a Mexican exhibit at that fair.

Towards the end of January, 1890, the last instalment of the debt due the United States, growing out of the award of the Mixed Joint Claims Commission, was paid.

It was also in 1890, that the harbor works in Tampico were inaugurated, while those of Vera Cruz were rapidly being pushed forward.

That year also witnessed the beginning of the construction of the General Hospital at the capital, which, when terminated some years afterwards, deserved the encomiums of all foreigners who visited it.

During the beginning of the year 1891, the Department of Communications and Public Works was established, and thereby one more member was added to the Cabinet.

It was then also that the Sanitary Code was issued, as well as a new custom-house ordinance and tariff.

Mexico having been invited to take part in the World's Fair to be held at the city of Chicago in the year 1893, the invitation was accepted, a commission was appointed that gathered a large variety of exhibits and it afterwards successfully presented them at that exposition.

President Diaz
(From a Painting)

During the year 1892, the fourth centenary of the discovery of America was duly celebrated throughout the Republic, while a commission, sent expressly by the government, worthily represented Mexico at the festivities held in Madrid on that occasion.

The total loss of the crops, the high rate of exchange due to the depreciation of silver, and the economic crisis which then ensued, brought about a reduction in the revenues of the government; but President Diaz, acting with foresight, adopted measures which brought about the satisfactory result of increasing the permanent revenues of the government. He furthermore obtained a loan abroad, which served to avoid and overcome all financial difficulties encountered by the federal administration.

As the Constitution of the Republic had been amended, so that it permitted the re-election of a president for one term only, it was plain that President Diaz could not again assume the reins of government for another term of office. As all thoughtful men and patriotic citizens became convinced that, in order to continue to enjoy the blessings of peace, to strengthen Mexico's credit abroad and to keep up the material advancement of the Republic, the presence of President Diaz at the head of the government was indispensable, an amendment of the Constitution was adopted in strict conformity with law, permitting the re-election of the President, without any restriction as to

the number of times that he might be re-elected. It was then that the candidacy of President Diaz for the term of 1892 to 1896 was presented, and was enthusiastically received throughout the country. His election soon followed, by nearly the unanimous vote of the electoral college.

In reviewing the acts of his administration, during the term then ended, we may properly make reference, as we did in the preceding chapter, to the message he read to the Federal Congress on September 16, 1892, which was the last of this term of office.

He begins that message by stating, as in former ones, that peace and order existed throughout Mexican territory, and that the relations of Mexico with foreign nations were cordial and friendly. He then gives a succinct, but fair statement, of the progress attained by the Republic in all the various departments of the administration, showing, among other things, that great strides were made in the Department of Public Instruction, that the mining and agricultural resources of the country at large were being developed, that telegraph and railroad lines continued to be built, that the harbor works of Vera Cruz and Tampico and the drainage works of the valley of Mexico were duly attended to, and that the necessary measures for the improvement of the financial status of the nation were being adopted.

It was therefore proper and just for President

Diaz to close his message with the following phrases:

As on former occasions, and with the same frankness and truthfulness, I have given you an account of the administrative acts performed since the date of my last message, without concealing from you anything that might serve to give you a right understanding, not only of the advancement made, but also of the difficulties at present existing. As you may have observed, the latter refer to the financial condition of the country, which is due to causes that are not subject, in any way, to the influence or authority of the government; it is therefore proper to modify some of its effects by the adoption of prudent measures relative thereto. Furthermore the advancement which commenced some years back in the Republic has not encountered, nor is it to be feared that it will encounter, a considerable setback, and the potent influence of peace, which is now fortunately consolidated, will undoubtedly be of great service to the Republic in its progressive advancement.

Even if during the presidential term that is about to terminate, no other advantage should have been secured, but this inestimable benefit, my aspirations would have been satisfied, because the obtainment of greater happiness for the Mexican people is principally to be due to the virtues which have preserved them in the critical period of their history and to their love of order, economy, and labor, which shall place them some day among the nations most apt to gather the fruits of our modern civilization.

CHAPTER IX

FROM 1892 TO 1896

THE same manifestations of joy and satisfaction were shown upon the inauguration of the new presidential term. The same policies that had guided his former administrations were continued in the one that commenced on the 1st of December, 1892.

President Diaz carried on through the Department of Foreign Relations the promotion of closer ties with those countries to which Mexico had sent diplomatic representatives, and at the beginning of his new term of office he initiated negotiations for the establishment of friendly and diplomatic relations with the Chinese Empire.

Certain boundary questions between several states of the union had caused some friction and displeasure between such states, but the friendly action and advice of President Diaz led to the proper adjustment of those difficulties. In the State of Guerrero some local disturbances occurred in October, 1894, but they were quickly suppressed, and did not affect in the least the peace and order of the rest of the Republic.

Mrs. Diaz
Wife of the President

The new laws adopted with the view of raising more revenue by means of new and additional taxation and through foreign loans, began to give satisfactory results, and it was noticeable that the economical crisis that had threatened the country during the last year of the preceding term, had nearly passed away.

Mexico continued to take great interest in all international gatherings, and Mexican delegates were sent to various congresses held in the United States and Europe; the policy of sending such delegates, having proved most advantageous, as it has given Mexico a standing among the progressive nations of the world, and spread within its borders the knowledge made in all the branches of science and art.

It proved most satisfactory to the Mexican people to know that, according to the official report published with reference to the World's Fair held at Chicago in 1893, the number of premiums granted to Mexican exhibitors was 1777, thus showing the great merit and importance of the Mexican Department at that exhibition. It may be stated here that the policy of President Diaz has ever been to spare no expense and to devote great energy and labor in the participation of Mexico at all international expositions. It is due to this policy that the Mexican Republic has had the satisfaction of being so well represented at all those expositions, and of attaining in the succeeding international fairs held at Paris, Buffalo,

and St. Louis (Missouri), the same success as at the Chicago Exposition.

At the beginning of the year 1894, the boundary questions pending between Mexico and Great Britain, relative to the State of Yucatan and the province of Belize, were satisfactorily adjusted by treaty, thus putting an end to vexing and dangerous controversies between the Mexican and British governments.

During the latter part of the same year, some difficulties arose with the Guatemalan Government, regarding some illegal acts committed by officials of that government within Mexican territory. The excitement among the people due to those difficulties rose to fever pitch, and the patriotic sentiments of the citizens led them to desire war with the neighboring Republic. President Diaz and his advisers had to act most wisely and prudently at this juncture, and it was due to this prudence and wisdom that an international conflict was avoided, thus preventing the shedding of blood and destruction of property in both republics. All questions pending were finally settled on the 1st of April, 1895, by means of an agreement entered into on behalf of Mexico by its Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mr. Ignacio Mariscal, and on behalf of Guatemala by Mr. Emilio de Leon, its diplomatic representative at the City of Mexico.

A great stride was made during the year 1894 in regard to public hygiene, by the promulgation of the new Sanitary Code, whose wise provisions,

properly carried out by the efficient head and members of the Superior Board of Health, may be said to have eradicated yellow fever from districts which formerly suffered greatly from that dreaded epidemic, and to have prevented bubonic plague and other contagious diseases from entering the Republic.

In the same year, 1895, the public debt was definitely arranged, without impairing in any way thereby the credit of the country.

In October, 1895, the International Congress of Americanists was held at the City of Mexico, and thereafter other international gatherings have selected the capital of the Republic as a place for their deliberations; the honor thus conferred on the City of Mexico being indicative of the high credit and reputation that the country now enjoys abroad.

In the message that President Diaz read to the Federal Congress on the 1st of April, 1896, that is, during the last year of the administration to which we are referring, he made most important declarations on what is styled the "Monroe Doctrine," which we cannot forbear from quoting *in extenso*, because they give a clear and precise understanding of that doctrine by General Diaz and by the Mexican Government.

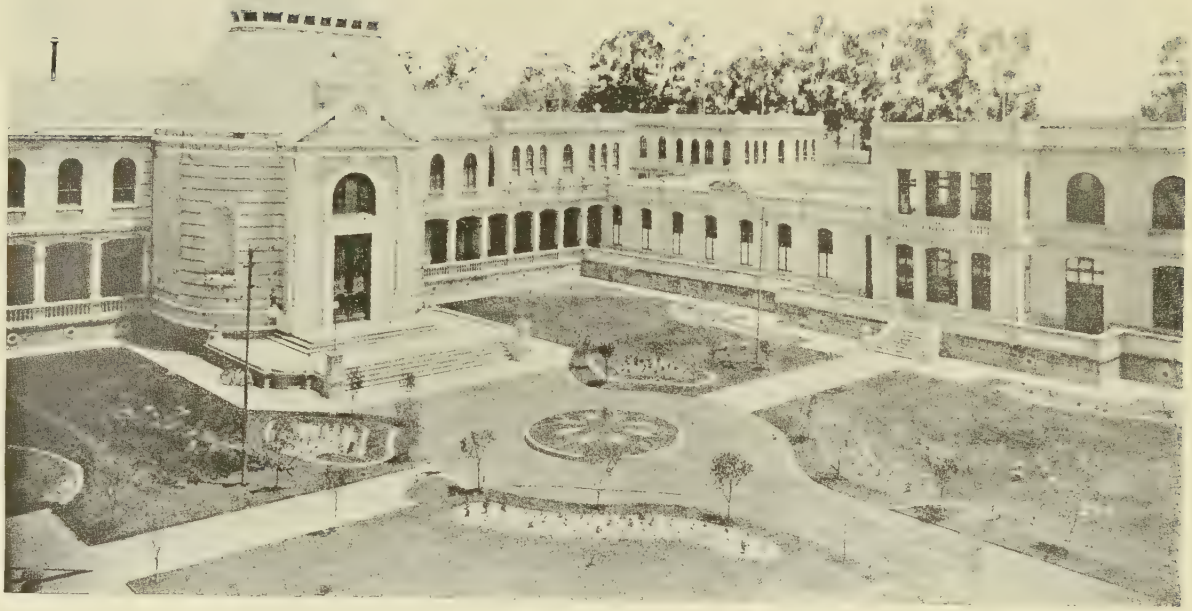
His statement and the phrases that comprise it, attracted so much attention in both countries, that some considered it a new departure in international law, or rather the reaffirmance of well

settled principles with reference to the question under discussion.

The portion of President Diaz's message in question, was as follows:

Among the events referring to that great Republic [the United States], that, since my last message have greatly claimed the attention and interest of all American nations, there is one regarding which I shall say a few words, impelled thereto by reasons of national decorum and convenience. Owing to an old boundary dispute between Venezuela and the territory called British Guiana, which question recently became acute, on account of causes which it is not necessary to examine, the President of the United States of America sent a message to the Congress of that nation bringing to its consideration, as applicable to said controversy, the famous opinion or doctrine which was presented by President Monroe in a similar document, and that since 1823 has been so well received by the American people. It was very natural that the reference to that doctrine, which opposes every attempt of European usurpation and every monarchical tendency to change the republican institutions of the New World, should be enthusiastically received by the free nations of this continent, and bring forth manifestations of sympathy by the peoples and even by the governments of America.

The Mexican Government was invited through international channels to express at once its opinion on that most serious question; but the Executive considered that it ought not to give a hasty opinion on a matter which at that time not only comprised the Monroe Doctrine, but also referred to the applica-



Orphan Asylum—Principal Entrance
City of Mexico

tion of its principles to the case of Great Britain in its controversies with Venezuela. As we did not know that question, perhaps, as well as the United States knew it, for it had received special information on the subject from the Venezuelan Government, we could not be in a position to assume that what England pretended to do could constitute an attempt at usurpation. Neither could we believe that every boundary question in its very nature, and even when relating to questions still under dispute could give rise to an application of that wise doctrine.

Furthermore, the mere fact that England should refuse to submit to arbitration its rights to a portion of the disputed territory—since it admitted it with reference to the balance—could not in our judgment be sufficient cause for that unfavorable opinion, since the Mexican Government itself has declared, on more than one occasion, that it will not submit to arbitration certain territorial questions which, according to its judgment, affect the national honor. It was for this reason that I personally avoided making any manifestations through the press, regarding a question which directly related to the interests or the finer sentiments of three nations for which we had similar regard; and I merely said that naturally I was a partisan of the Monroe principles when well understood, but that I did not know whether they were applicable to the special case to which reference had been made.

But now that fortunately, and as it was to be expected, the critical period has passed, which it was thought might lead to war between the two great nations into which the Anglo-Saxon race is divided: now that our sister republic Venezuela is

continuing at Washington its peaceful negotiations with its powerful adversary, it seems that it would not be improper to yield to the desire of those who have asked the Mexican Government to express its opinion with regard to the Monroe Doctrine. Without entering into disquisitions as to the origin and the historic moment which gave rise to its proclamation; without entering into details as to the proper limitations which its own author set to it, and which were referred to so skilfully by President Cleveland, the Mexican Government can do no less than be in favor of a doctrine which condemns as unjust any invasion made by monarchical Europe against the American republics, against such independent nations which to-day are administered by that popular form of government. Our general history and especially the struggle of our people to shake off the yoke of a foreign empire of European origin, form and elements, and the torrents of blood, shed in that terrible struggle, testified before the world our love of independence and our hatred of all foreign intervention.

But we do not consider that in order to attain the object that we desire it is sufficient that the United States alone, notwithstanding the greatness of its resources, should have the obligation to aid the other republics of this hemisphere against the attacks of Europe,—if such are yet considered possible,—but that each one of them, by means of a declaration similar to that issued by President Monroe, should proclaim that any attack from any foreign power, which may be directed to injure the territory or the independence, or to change the institutions of any one of the American republics, should be considered by the nation making such declaration as an offence

against it, if the other nation which sustained the attack, or to which a threat of that character is directed, should ask its aid at the opportune moment.

In this way the doctrine, now styled Monroe Doctrine, would become the American Doctrine in its most ample sense, and if it is true that it has had its origin in the United States, it could form a part of the international law of all America. What are the means of attaining this result in a practical and convenient manner, is a question that cannot be discussed in this message.

Long before the end of the term of office of President Diaz to which we are referring, public opinion again demanded his re-election. It was at the urgent solicitation of all parties, that the President allowed his name to be brought again before the voters as a presidential candidate. We may say that the canvass in his favor in this instance, was as successful as it had been on former occasions.

Before the close of this term, he read before Congress on the 16th of September, 1896, his last message, which showed a most satisfactory condition of affairs all over the Republic in all branches of the public service. It was during this term to which we refer that the public revenues exceeded the public expenses, the former amounting to $50,000,000, and that there was left a balance in favor of the nation of about $4,500,000; a most satisfactory result, for which due praise must be given, not only to the President, but also to Mr.

José Ives Limantour, who was at the head of the Treasury Department.

President Diaz rightly and properly concluded the message to which we refer in the satisfactory phrases that he addressed to the members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, as follows:

As you may have been able to infer from the facts that I have briefly stated, the nation has not halted on its onward advance, and every day all the branches of the public service are improving, even in spite of some obstacles which might retard that progress. So we have seen that the national revenues, whose excess over the public expenses was such an agreeable surprise upon the termination of the first half of the last fiscal year, increased so materially in the second half and in the months that have elasped since then, that to-day we have at our disposal a larger balance, and this has been done notwithstanding that new taxes had to be levied, causing thereby some inconvenience, in order to substitute the revenues heretofore obtained through interstate imposts. Furthermore, the very noticeable advance in our mineral products, shown by the increase in the exportation of minerals; the registry of property amounting to $30,000,000 in a single period of three months, and many other data that we have at hand regarding public wealth, tend to prove its growing advancement within the last few years. In order that this era of prosperity, which has for its basis the present existence of peace and public order, may continue without any interruption, we must rely undoubtedly not only on the good sense of the Mexican people, but also on the

José Yves Limantour
Secretary of Finance

patriotic efforts which have been shown by the members of Congress.

We cannot close this chapter without making reference to the abolition of interstate imposts, mentioned in the last paragraph of President Diaz's message, because the suppression of such imposts was one of the most beneficial measures initiated and carried out by the administration of President Diaz, and has proved to be a great incentive and means of developing the resources of the Republic, and of attracting foreign capital to aid in the progress of all industries.

CHAPTER X

FROM 1896 TO 1900

THE beginning of the presidential term of General Diaz, which commenced on the 1st of December, 1896, showed that the increase in public revenues was such that the tax on the salaries of public employees could be done away with.

Various financial measures marked the first months of that term, such as the issuance of the general law regulating institutions of credit, the provisions regarding the collection of taxes on precious metals and the amendments to the tariff regulations. During that period of time, large amounts of money were spent in the prosecution of important public improvements, such as the National Penitentiary, the General Hospital, and the drainage works of the valley of Mexico.

The banking facilities of the country were increased during this term of President Diaz's administration, by the establishment of various state banks, and certain modifications of importance were introduced in the Department of War

and Navy; the army having been newly equipped, its efficiency was thereby improved.

During the year 1898, the war between the United States and Spain occurred, and President Diaz maintained the strictest neutrality towards the two contending nations, and thus prevented any controversy arising with either of the belligerents, on account of any act performed by the Mexican authorities.

A passing reference may be made to the submission to arbitration of a claim presented against Mexico by Charles Oberlander and Barbara Messinger, owing to the imprisonment of the former by the Mexican authorities of the territory of Lower California, as it shows the policy already initiated by the Mexican and American governments of appealing to arbitration for the settlement of controversies regarding pecuniary claims. It may be added that this case was submitted to the Argentine Minister at Madrid, who decided that Mexico was not liable in any way and rejected the claim in its entirety.

It was at the beginning of the year 1899 that Mexico and the United States resolved to raise the rank of their diplomatic representatives to that of ambassador, and Mr. Matias Romero, whose long and successful services were highly appreciated, was appointed Mexico's first ambassador to the American Government. Unfortunately, death claimed as its own that distinguished diplomat, and as a matter of fact, the able Sub-Secretary

of Foreign Relations, Mr. Manuel Azpiroz, who was appointed successor to Mr. Romero, was the first Mexican diplomat who presented his credentials as ambassador in Washington.

The messages read by President Diaz in the four years of the term of his administration to which we are referring, plainly showed how satisfactory the financial condition of the country was, and what great strides had been made and improvements effected in all the branches of the public service.

In the month of May, 1899, Mexico took part in the great Peace Congress, which was held at The Hague, upon the invitation of the Emperor of Russia; it lasted a period of three months and was fruitful in beneficial results. It may be stated here that Mexico and the United States were the only American republics that were invited and took part in that important Congress.

Speaking of its work, President Diaz in one of his messages to the Federal Congress says:

> The fruit of its labors, during the period of its sessions, consisted of three conventions, and as many declarations, all signed by the delegates of Mexico; the former referring to the peaceful settlement of international controversies, to the laws and customs of war by land, and to the application in wars by sea of the principles that had been adopted since 1864 by the Geneva Conference. The declarations relate to the prevention of the use of certain kinds of projectiles.

President Diaz in the Executive Chair

The convention for the peaceful settlement of international conflicts is most remarkable, both on account of its essential characteristics and the manner of procedure therein described. By virtue thereof a permanent court of justice, with its administrative council is established, which either by the issuance of sentences that shall bind the nations making the agreement, or by the signing of opinions, supported by the moral prestige of those who prepare them, shall act as a means to peacefully settle any international conflict, which does not relate to the honor or to the essential interests of the nation.

As a consequence of our participation in the Peace Conference, Mexico as well as the European powers, the principal nations of Asia, and the United States of America, shall have its international judges in that permanent court. We will also take part in the administrative council of said court, which shall consist of the ministers accredited at The Hague.

In the same message to which we have just referred, some paragraphs are found which fully explain the successful financial operations carried on in Europe by the government, through its Secretary of Finance, Mr. Limantour, and we cannot forbear making the following quotations from the same:

In strict compliance with the prescriptions adopted by Congress in the law which authorizes the executive to convert the national debt payable in gold, adequate arrangements therefor have been made, through the Secretary of Finance, while that functionary was in Europe on a temporary leave of absence. Detailed

information of that operation will be sent to Congress at the proper time; but I can at once point out the principal advantages which it will have for the public treasury. They consist in the reduction of one per cent. in the rate of interest, which will be quite an economy in the annual payment of the same; in the suppression of the deposits and assignments of certain funds, agreed to be given as guarantee of the former loan contracts, which will permit their disposal or their use hereafter in the manner that might be more advantageous to the public treasury; in the cancellation of the mortgage of the Tehuantepec Railroad; and finally, in the unification of the foreign debt.

During the beginning of the year 1900, the great harbor works at Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos were commenced. These works, with those under way in Vera Cruz, Tampico, Mazatlan and Manzanillo, were ultimately bound to convert those ports into the safest harbors of this continent.

It may now be both interesting and important to take notice of two incidents referred to in President Diaz's messages of 1900, which gave rise to manifestations of good-will towards Mexico on the part of the United States, and of the upright manner in which American courts have dealt with matters wherein the Mexican Government was concerned.

We refer first to the action taken by the Attorney General of the United States, at the request of the Mexican Embassy at Washington, under instructions from the Mexican Government, to

discontinue two suits brought against Mexico in the courts of the State of New York on alleged claims against that government, thereby reaffirming the principle of international law that a sovereign nation cannot, without its consent, be sued in the courts of another country.

The other incident is the dismissal by the Supreme Court of the United States of the appeal of the claimants in the celebrated La Abra and Weil cases, against the decision of the Court of Claims, setting aside for fraud the award made in favor of such claimants by the Mixed Claims Commission. We may add that thereafter the Senate of the United States declined to intervene in any way in favor of the claimants, and that the American Government not only refused to collect any further part of the award, but went even further and reimbursed Mexico the part already collected by the United States and paid over to the owners of those fraudulent claims.

The success attained by President Diaz in all branches of the administration was even more marked and conspicuous, if possible, during this period than in any of the former ones; and therefore it was nothing but natural that public opinion with great unanimity should demand his re-election. This event took place in the customary manner, there being no opposing candidate, and the votes cast showing an overwhelming majority in his favor.

On the 16th of September, 1900, he presented

to Congress his final message embracing that term of his administration.

The following is the closing paragraph of that message:

I have terminated this brief statement, which, like those of former years, shows not only the advancement made by the government in all its branches, through its constant efforts to improve the public service, but also the continuous development of the elements of wealth which are so abundant in our country, and which merely await further labor to bring about greater results, in the midst of the peaceful conditions that have existed in Mexico for about a quarter of a century and which fortunately are now assured. On an occasion like the present one, it is but natural that we should congratulate ourselves over such a prosperous condition and pay a just tribute to the Mexican people and their worthy legislators, who have so efficiently contributed to establish and maintain such a flourishing state.

Of course in a work which is devoted to the description of the life of a statesman, and which therefore is more of a biographical than of a historical character, a great deal has to be left out which would really pertain to the history of the country to which that statesman belongs. And although it is true that the biography of President Diaz during the last fifty years, and especially during the thirty years last past, may be said to be nearly identical with the history of the Mexican Republic during that period, we are compelled, nevertheless,

National Legislative Palace
City of Mexico

to pass by and omit many matters, which are rather historical than biographical in their nature, with the further object of devoting some portion of this work to the private life of President Diaz and the traits of his character as a private citizen.

It is for the reasons above stated that we have merely sketched, as it were, the leading acts of the various periods of his administration, and this is the course that we will also pursue in the remaining chapters of this book.

CHAPTER XI

FROM 1900 TO 1904

DURING President Diaz's new term of office, the improvements made in the capital of the Republic were numerous and of great importance. As the great works of the drainage of the valley of Mexico had been terminated, those in the interior of the city were commenced.

If it is true that in the preceding years many improvements have been carried on in the City of Mexico, it may be said that they greatly increased in value and extent, as we have already stated, since the year 1900. The establishment of excellent drainage, the construction of good asphalt pavements, the improvement in the electric light service and in the tramway system, the increase in the number of private dwellings, especially in those portions of the city known as Colonia Juarez and Colonia Roma, and the erection of handsome public buildings, such as the City Post Office, the National Geological Institute, and the Children's Asylum, and those being built, as the National Opera House, the National Legislative Palace, the Department of Public Works and Communications,

and others, have rendered and still render the City of Mexico, a most beautiful, healthy, and convenient place for residence.

The official census of the Republic having been taken in 1900 and published later on, showed that the population was 13,546,700 inhabitants, giving an increase of 914,340 inhabitants, as compared with the census taken in the year 1895.

At the beginning of the year 1901, diplomatic relations were re-established with the Government of Austria-Hungary, which had been severed since the war of French intervention.

It was during the year 1901 that the Department of Justice and Public Instruction was divided, so that it had to devote itself merely to the judicial branch of the service, leaving the new department to conduct all matters regarding public instruction. A new Cabinet officer was appointed. This new member of the Cabinet was the well known litterateur and statesman, Mr. Justo Sierra, whilst the able Secretary of Justice, Mr. Justino Fernandez, remained at the head of that department.

During the same year, the Second Pan-American Conference was held at the City of Mexico, and delegates from every one of the American republics assembled there to discuss important matters of policy and international law relating to those countries.

President Diaz, in advance of that conference had appointed a most able commission on behalf of Mexico, which was presided over by the late

Senator Genaro Raigosa, and had for its secretary Mr. Joaquin D. Casasus, who afterwards became Mexican Ambassador at Washington. Both of these gentlemen, upon the meeting of the conference, were appointed president and secretary general of the same, and their able and painstaking work, taken in connection with the labors of their fellow-members in the Mexican commission, greatly contributed to the success of that international congress.

The strained relations existing between some South American republics at the time when the conference was held, lengthened its labors, and rendered it necessary for the Mexican delegation to exert great skill, forbearance, and tact, in order that such labors should not prove fruitless. However, with the aid of President Diaz and the members of his Cabinet, as well as with the assistance of all the able delegates from the other American republics, the success of the conference was assured and it closed, after having signed several important treaties, declarations, and resolutions.

The conference was likewise a great success socially, and all the delegates declared that they had been most royally entertained by President and Mrs. Diaz, by the *personnel* of the federal and city governments, as well as by the governors and committees appointed by them, in the states which were visited by the members of that international gathering.

We may also refer here to the co-operation of

The National Geological Institute
City of Mexico

Mexico in the Pan-American Exposition held at the city of Buffalo in 1901. This exposition was unfortunately not as successful as was anticipated, owing to the dastardly assassination of President McKinley, which occurred at its Music Hall on September 6, 1901. The Mexican department at that exhibition was highly praised by all visitors and the number of premiums that Mexican exhibitors obtained was most gratifying.

The improvements made in the Tehuantepec Railroad, as well as the signing of the contract for the construction of a railway line to terminate at the Guatemalan frontier, and the building of other railroads throughout the Republic, showed plainly that the policy of inaugurating and establishing public improvements, and connecting by rail the most important parts of the Republic, was to be continued.

It was during this term of office that permanent legations were established by the Mexican Government in the republics of South America, one of said legations being accredited to the countries lying on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and the other to those lying on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

During the year 1902, a controversy existing between Mexico and the United States, regarding certain claims of the Catholic Church of California, was submitted for decision to the permanent court of arbitration, held at The Hague, and though its decision was adverse to Mexican interests,

President Diaz will always be praised for having adopted the policy of peacefully solving a controversy, under the terms of existing treaties and by submission to a high court of arbitration. That was the first case of importance presented before that international tribunal.

In the same year, Mexico established diplomatic relations with the Cuban Republic, and at the beginning of the year 1893, a diplomatic representative from the Shah of Persia was received by President Diaz, a treaty of commerce and friendship having been signed between the two countries in the preceding year. Soon after that a Mexican minister was sent to Persia.

As Venezuela had signed several agreements for the settlement of certain claims against said country, the Mexican Government availed itself of this opportunity to enter into an arrangement of that character, with the object of settling certain demands of Mexican citizens against that Republic. It is satisfactory to state that thereafter, when the case was submitted to arbitration, a judgment was obtained in favor of the Mexican claimants.

As the financial situation of Mexico was most satisfactory, it was considered convenient to take some steps in order to establish the gold standard in the Republic. Mr. Limantour, the efficient Secretary of the Treasury, acting under advice of President Diaz, and aided by a commission composed of skilful financiers, well versed in economic

questions, made thorough and laborious investigations on the subject, which thereafter resulted in the establishment of the gold standard, under conditions highly satisfactory to the financial interests of the Republic, and which have greatly aided in the development of the resources of the country at large.

The year 1903 marked the termination of the drainage works of the City of Mexico, which served to improve considerably the sanitary conditions of the capital; and it was also in that year, that the bubonic plague which had appeared in Mazatlan and other Pacific coast ports was stamped out, while yellow fever, which again made its appearance in Tampico and Vera Cruz, was finally likewise eliminated as an epidemic.

During this term of office, President Diaz, through his Secretary of Public Instruction, gave considerable attention to the increase of educational facilities throughout the Republic, many new schools having been established. Archæological research likewise received an impetus, due to which many important discoveries have been made in the rich field that Mexico presents in that branch of human knowledge.

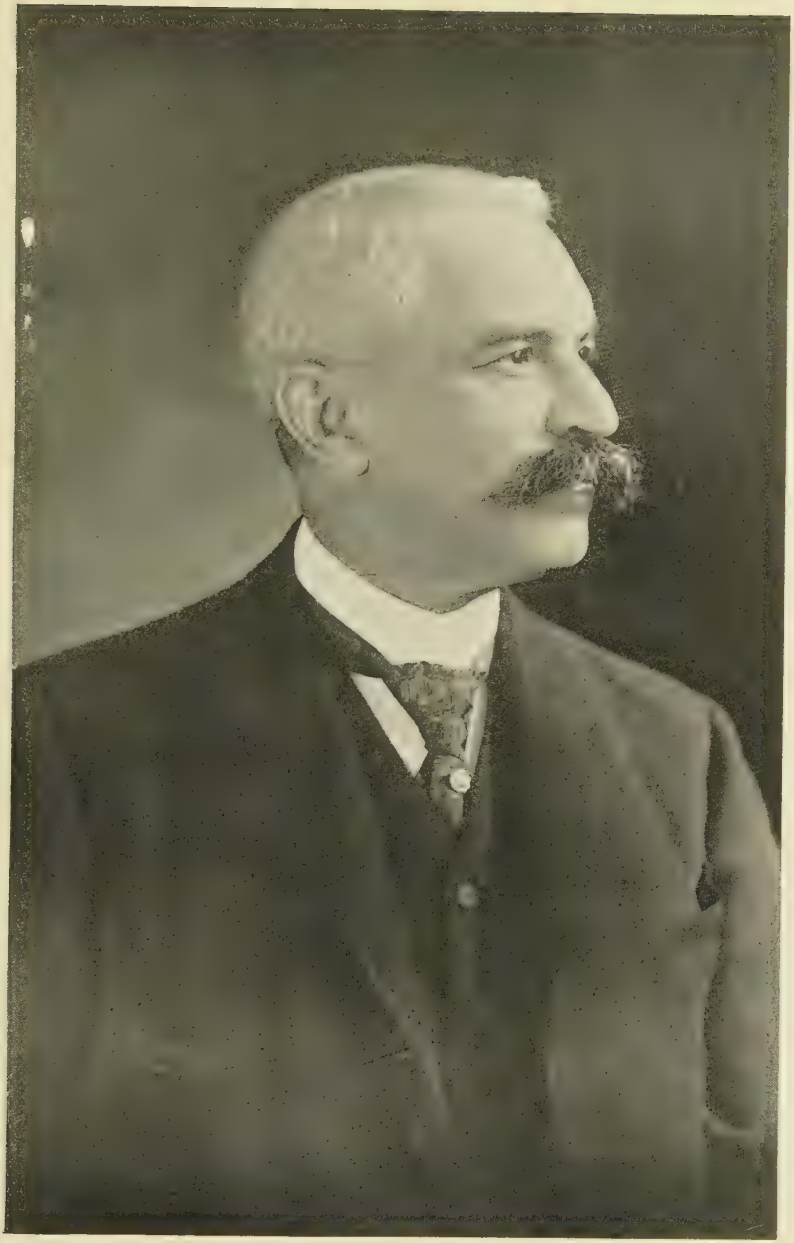
As the end of this term of administration of President Diaz approached, it was plain to all rightly thinking men that it was necessary for the continuous prosperity of the country, not only that President Diaz should be re-elected, but that his term of office should be extended to six

years, and that, instead of the cumbersome constitutional provision existing regarding the appointment of a vice-president, such officer should be elected at the same time as the chief magistrate of the nation, and that his term of office should, as a matter of course, also be of six years' duration.

Accordingly, and in strict compliance with the provisions of the Constitution, that instrument was amended so as to extend to six years the presidential term and to provide for the election of a vice-president.

Several statesmen of high reputation were mentioned as candidates for the vice-presidency: these were Mr. Ramon Corral, Secretary of the Interior; Mr. Ignacio Mariscal, Secretary of Foreign Relations; Mr. José Ives Limantour, Secretary of Finance, and General Bernardo Reyes, former Secretary of War, and who was then Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon.

The leading political party decided in favor of Mr. Corral, and in the spring of 1904, when President Diaz was re-elected by a nearly unanimous vote, Secretary Corral was proclaimed vice-president. He had theretofore been Governor of the State of Sonora, and Governor of the Federal District, and in those posts, as well as during the time that he had been at the head of the Department of the Interior, he had shown high administrative ability and a steadfast desire to follow the lead and pursue the policies so successfully carried out by President Diaz.



Ramon Corral
Vice-President of the Republic and Secretary of the Interior

At the beginning of 1904, a portion of the State of Yucatan was segregated, and duly established and organized as a territory under the name of Quintana Roo.

President Diaz read his last message to Congress, relating to the acts of his administration during the term of office which was to terminate on the 1st of December, 1904, and in that message he stated that the friendly relations existing between Mexico and foreign nations had not been interrupted, excepting with reference to Guatemala. The following quotation from that message will give the full details of the disagreeable incident which occurred with that country:

By the documents published last month in the *Official Journal*, you may have learned that, while some soldiers were passing in front of the Mexican Legation in Guatemala conducting a prisoner, the latter escaped and entered the vestibule of the building, when his custodians, without asking permission, also entered and took him away by force. The Mexican Minister, as soon as he knew what had occurred, presented a protest, as was proper, wherein he asked due satisfaction for the insult and the punishment of the offenders. The Guatemalan Government ordered an investigation of the incident, and undoubtedly being misinformed as to what had happened, refused at first to grant what was demanded, although it stated that it was sorry that such an incident had taken place. Owing to the friendly feelings that have always guided our intercourse with Guatemala, my government did not wish to go very far in showing

its displeasure, and merely recommended our diplomatic representative to insist on his demand, since through various persons who had witnessed the incident, he had no doubt that an outrage had been committed. I have the satisfaction to state that this firm and likewise prudent conduct brought about the result that was to be expected, as the Guatemalan Government gave satisfaction to ours and granted what had been demanded, namely, a statement to the effect that it was sorry the incident had occurred and that punishment would be meted out to those who were directly implicated in the same.

The message to which we have referred also shows that in the Departments of the Interior, Justice, and Public Instruction, as well as in those of Public Promotion, Communications, and War, great advancement had been made and due attention had been given to all branches of those services.

The purchase of the so-called *Vera Cruz to the Pacific Railroad*, during this term of office, was the initiatory step taken by President Diaz and his Cabinet, to obtain the control of the leading railroad lines of the Republic, and thus bring about more satisfactory, better, and more uniform service in such railroads.

A portion of the message on the subject of finances and public credit is so important and interesting in itself, that we will quote it in its entirety:

I am glad to communicate to Congress that the

results of the fiscal year, which terminated on the 30th of June last past, have been satisfactory, in spite of the scarcity of money and available capital in the leading cities of the Republic during the greater part of that fiscal year, and even though the taxes and imposts levied on taxpayers, had as a general rule been diminished, when the federal impost was reduced from thirty to twenty-five per cent.

The total revenue of the year exceeded the sum of $85,000,000, and although all the accounts have not been audited, there is no doubt that such revenue exceeded by $8,000,000 that of the preceding year. It must be stated, nevertheless, that the proceeds from all municipal sources in the Federal District, which for the first time constituted a part of the federal revenues in 1903–1904, represent a sum amounting to nearly $4,000,000.

Referring especially, as it is customary, to the two great sources of revenue which represent more than eighty per cent. of the total income of the Federation, I have the honor to inform you that the importation duties, without the additions authorized by the law of November 25, 1902, have increased by nearly $2,000,000, and that a proportional increase has been noticed in exportation duties and port dues. As far as the aggregate revenue from all imposts which are classified as internal revenue taxes is concerned, such revenue was more than $1,000,000 in excess of that obtained in the preceding year.

The foregoing we think fully justifies the conclusion of President Diaz's message, when he said to the senators and deputies:

Although the information which I have given you does not offer any novelty, it does show clearly the situation of our country, with reference to those branches whose administration is in charge of the Executive. They fully justify the opinion, which is now generally entertained in the whole civilized world, that this Republic has fully entered on the high-road to sure progress. Peace and legal order, attended by good judgment, which is now a trait of character of the Mexican people, are the well known causes that have brought about such a favorable condition in Mexican history. The permanency of these benefits and their growing development, shall hereafter be dependent on the same causes, since all obstacles which formerly ran counter to public prosperity have been removed, and in order to preserve and increase it we shall not have to appeal to other means but to the labor and industry of all good citizens, and to the opportune and patriotic efforts of their representatives, when exercising the powers that the Constitution has vested in them.

General Hospital—City of Mexico

CHAPTER XII

FROM 1904 TO 1910

RARELY have the inhabitants of the City of Mexico witnessed such enthusiastic manifestations and such interesting festivities as those which took place in December, 1904, and January, 1905, to celebrate the inauguration of President Diaz in his new term of office. Similar festivities were likewise held in all the leading cities of the Republic, and they plainly showed how well satisfied the people were that he should remain at the head of the administration.

We will not describe those festivities, but refer incidentally to the grand banquet held at the School of Mines, in honor of the President, at which the members of his Cabinet, many of the governors of the states, all the members of the diplomatic corps, and other notable persons were present. The illuminations and the grand review and parade of the artisans and manufacturers, with allegorical cars, were also a great feature of those feasts, which terminated with one of the most elegant and brilliant balls ever given at the City of Mexico, dedicated to Mrs. Diaz, the President's wife.

The events that have taken place during the present administration of President Diaz, and the measures which he has carried out in that period, are so recent, so fresh still in the memories of all those who take an interest in Mexican affairs, that it does not appear necessary to give detailed information concerning them. Still, passing reference may be made to the most interesting of those events and to the most important of such measures. We may add also that the same success that his former administrations attained, has been the lot of the present one.

Two great financial operations have been carried out to a successful issue during President Diaz's present term of office, namely: the establishment of a gold standard, and the consolidation of most of the railroad lines of the Republic to be controlled by the government.

President Diaz was ably assisted in the carrying out of these measures not only by Mr. Limantour, Secretary of the Treasury, but also by the leading financiers and economists of the Republic, such as Messrs. Joaquin D. Casasus and Enrique C. Creel, both of whom have held the post of Mexican Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Pablo Macedo, and others. It was fortunate that the complicated scheme to effect the change of standard was carried on at the most opportune time, when the financial conditions of the country permitted it, and when the fall of silver made it easier to be put into effect. Financiers throughout the world

have praised the manner in which this most important financial change was accomplished, and there is no doubt that it is one of the measures that has evoked more encomiums abroad for the administration of President Diaz.

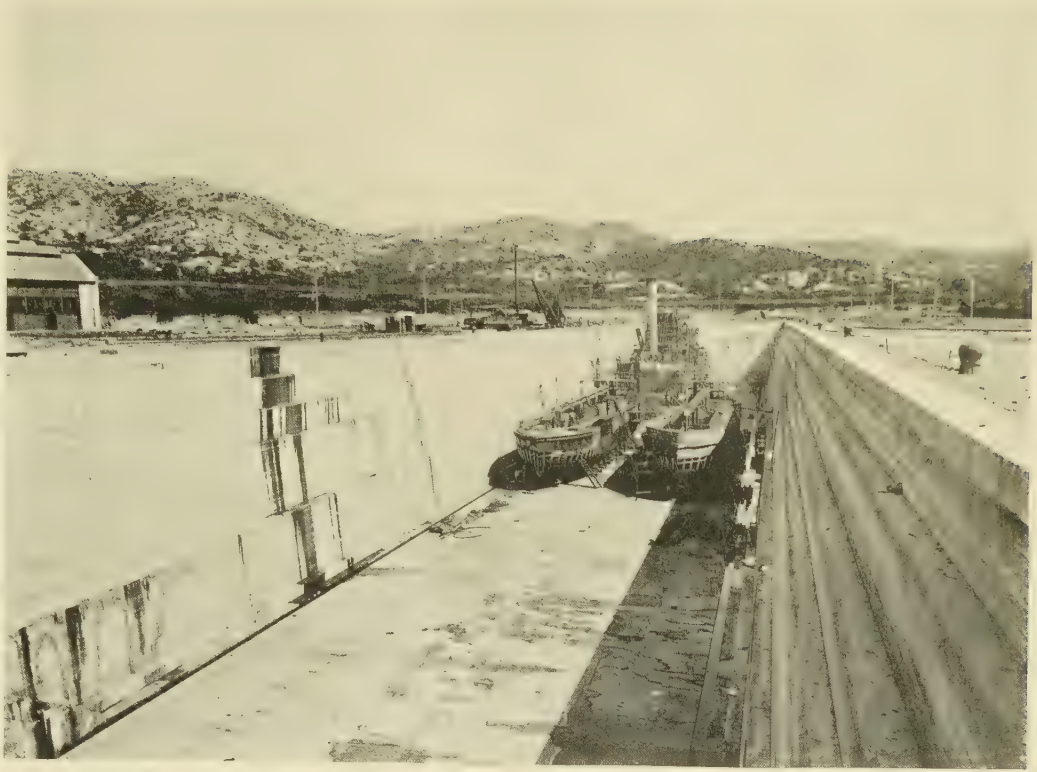
The other great measure to which we have reference is the consolidation of railroad lines to be under government control. The difficulties encountered in dealing with railways in Mexico by the Federal Government were not as great as those met by other governments, especially by the United States; still in order to protect the interests of the public in general, to prevent abuses on the part of the companies, and to be able to fully regulate fares and freights, it was considered most important to have the greater part of the railroads under absolute control of the government. The operation was effected by the aid of foreign capital, and many of the leading railroad lines from the American frontier, and from the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, passed into government control under one consolidated company.

Regarding foreign affairs, we may say that one of the most important events relative to them arose in connection with the republics of Central America.

The dastardly assassination at the City of Mexico of Ex-President Manuel L. Barillas, in which men in high authority in the Republic of Guatemala seemed to be implicated, brought about the demand for their extradition by the Mexican

Government. The refusal of Guatemala to grant that demand led to difficulties and nearly to a severance of relations between the two governments. The attitude assumed by President Diaz and Mr. Mariscal, Secretary of Foreign Relations, resulted, if not in a satisfactory solution of the question, at least in the resumption of friendly relations between Guatemala and Mexico.

A change of government in the Republic of Honduras, the difficulties which led to a war between Salvador and Nicaragua, and the threatening measures adopted by Guatemala, brought about, at the request of all the Central American republics, the friendly interposition of Mexico and the United States in their domestic affairs. A preliminary protocol was signed at the city of Washington by the diplomatic representatives of the five Central American republics, in the presence of the Assistant Secretary of State of the United States and the Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico, on the 17th of September, 1907, and thereafter, and by virtue of the provisions of such protocol, a Central American Peace Conference was held at Washington in November of that year, when each Central American country was represented by two or three delegates; the deliberations of said conference and the signing of the protocols and treaties agreed to being effected in the presence of the then Mexican Ambassador, Enrique C. Creel, and of the late W. I. Buchanan, Special Commissioner of the United States.



The Dry Dock at Salina Cruz

The signing of a treaty, providing for the organization of a High Court of Justice at Cartago, Costa Rica, to decide all matters of controversy between the Central American governments, was one of the most important measures adopted by said Conference. That Court was duly organized a few months afterwards and has already acted upon controversies arising among the Central American republics.

Further trouble in Central America has brought about the friendly interposition of Mexico and the United States, at the request of the governments affected by the same, and it is to be hoped that the signing of the treaties above referred to, and the friendly offices of the Mexican and American governments, may, if not put an end to, at least tend to diminish the gravity of, many controversies that hitherto have led to the shedding of so much blood and destruction of valuable property in the Central American republics.

At all events, even if this satisfactory result is not brought about, President Diaz and President Roosevelt must receive due meed of praise for their well directed endeavors to assure the peace and public order in the five Central American republics.

The visit of Secretary of State Elihu Root to the City of Mexico towards the end of the summer of 1907, and the magnificent and enthusiastic manner in which he was received, undoubtedly

served to bind closer the ties of friendship existing between the two republics.

It was during that visit that Mr. Root delivered the following remarkable eulogy on President Diaz:

It has seemed to me that of all the men now living, President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico was best worth seeing. Whether one considers the adventurous, daring, chivalric incidents of his early career; whether one considers the vast work of government which his wisdom and courage and commanding character accomplished; whether one considers his singularly attractive personality, no one lives to-day whom I would rather see than President Diaz. If I were a poet, I would write poetic eulogies; if I were a musician, I would compose triumphal marches; if I were a Mexican, I should feel that the steadfast loyalty of a lifetime could not be too much in return for the blessings that he has brought to my country. As I am neither poet, musician, nor Mexican, but only an American who loves justice and liberty, and hopes to see their reign among mankind progress and strengthen and become perpetual, I look to Porfirio Diaz, the President of Mexico, as one of the greatest men to be held up for the hero-worship of mankind.

It was also during that visit that Mr. Root, at a banquet tendered to him by President Diaz, made the following significant and interesting remarks:

I cannot keep my mind from reverting to a former visit by an American Secretary of State to the Republic of Mexico. Thirty-eight years ago Mr. Seward,

a really great American Secretary of State, visited this country. How vast the difference between what he found and what I find. Then was a country torn by civil war, sunk in poverty, in distress, in almost helplessness. Now I find the country great in its prosperity, in its wealth, in its activity and enterprise, in the moral strength of its just and equal laws, and unalterable purpose to advance its people steadily along the path of progress. Mr. President, the people of the United States feel that the world owes this great change chiefly to you. They are grateful to you for it, for they rejoice in the prosperity and happiness of Mexico. We believe, Sir, that we are richer and happier because you are happier and richer, and we rejoice that you are no longer a poor and struggling nation needing assistance, but that you are strong and vigorous, so that we can go with you side by side in demonstrating to the world that our two republics are able to govern themselves wisely—side by side—in helping to carry to our less fortunate sisters the blessings of peace.

The disturbances caused by some evil-intentioned Mexicans along the border in the years 1906 and 1907, and their ill advised and illegal attempts to bring about public turmoil in some of the northern states of the Mexican Republic, thereby hoping to gain booty and plunder, have proved once more the friendship of the United States Government towards that of Mexico, as the American authorities promptly arrested the ringleaders, who violated the neutrality laws, and had them convicted.

Attention may be called to the holding of the Second Peace Conference at The Hague and to the Third Pan-American Conference which met at Rio Janeiro in 1906, in both of which international meetings Mexico took an important part, thereby reaffirming its policy of goodwill, conciliation, and friendship towards all foreign nations.

Although not as important as other international exhibitions, the one held at Jamestown, Virginia, in the summer and autumn of 1907, presented some interesting features, among which may be mentioned the Mexican exhibit and the daily concerts given by the Mexican military band. The enthusiastic way in which the anniversary of Mexican Independence was celebrated at that Exposition clearly demonstrated once more the kind and friendly feelings entertained by the American people towards their southern neighbor.

Another instance of a similar character, and of the high regard in which President Diaz is held in the United States, was evidenced at the banquet given at the city of New York in November, 1908, by the Chamber of Commerce of that great state, which was in part dedicated to him and to Mexico, and where prominent men from all parts of the Union were present and applauded and evinced great enthusiasm whenever his name was mentioned.

Still another manifestation of regard toward Mexico's Chief Executive was the important meeting held at the frontier on October 16, 1909,

Mrs. Diaz
Wife of the President

between President Porfirio Diaz and President William H. Taft.

The great strides in all classes of public improvements in Mexico have been intensified during the present term of administration by the completion of the magnificent harbor works at Salina Cruz, Manzanillo, and Coatzacoalcos (now Puerto Mexico), the inauguration of the new post-office at the City of Mexico, and the activity displayed in the erection of other public buildings, already referred to, as well as the opening of the railroad to Manzanillo, establishing a new all-rail route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and other public works of great importance throughout the Republic.

As the time draws near for the celebration of the centenary of Mexican independence, the government and people are striving to do their utmost to commemorate that great event. No one is more interested than President Diaz in making that celebration a notable one, and judging from the preparations so far made, we augur a great success for the Mexican Jubilee.

During the period to which we are referring the local campaigns against the Yaqui Indians in Sonora and against the Maya Indians in the new Territory of Quintana Roo were successfully terminated, and the same thing occurred with reference to the strikes in Orizaba, State of Vera Cruz, and in the Cananea Mines, State of Sonora, due to economic causes and labor agitation, but not

having any political character whatever, and which were similar in effect to the strikes that have taken place in the United States during the past years; these events, however, in no way altered or disturbed the peace prevailing throughout the Republic.

The trips undertaken by President Diaz in the last few years to Guanajuato, Puebla, Merida, Chihuahua, and other cities for the purpose of inaugurating public works of great importance, and the enthusiastic manner in which he was received everywhere, served to make patent the affection and high regard in which he is held by the nation, and to show how united are the Mexican people and what little sectional feeling, if any, there exists in the Republic.

During the year 1909, there was some political agitation in various portions of the country, owing to the preliminary canvass for the presidential elections to be held in the summer of 1910. Although President Diaz most emphatically had shown his disinclination to run again for office, or continue at the head of the government, and his desire to retire from public life, and had even expressed that desire through the public press, the Mexican people with a unanimity almost unprecedented signified the wish to have him again at the head of public affairs. He reluctantly consented thereupon to be once again the standard bearer of the voters of his country.

A great many of these voters considered that

Vice-President Corral should hold anew the second place in the government, as he had shown great tact, administrative ability, and was in full accord with the policies pursued by President Diaz. There were other persons, however, who, without the consent of General Bernardo Reyes, Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon, presented his name as a vice-presidential candidate.

The political agitation which ensued, in no ways greater or more virulent than that which takes place in the United States during some presidential, and even in many state, elections, led to slight perturbations of public order in some cities which, through sensational reports of a few correspondents, were exaggerated and magnified abroad.

Soon, however, that agitation ceased, and General Reyes himself withdrew his candidacy, or rather stated that he had not aspired to the vice-presidency, and in order that this might be well understood, he withdrew from the governorship of the State of Nuevo Leon, and went abroad to study the military systems of foreign governments.

It may be interesting to state that, while on his way to Europe, General Reyes was interviewed in New York City, on November 13, 1909, by a representative of the New York *Herald* and in that interview he is quoted as saying:

I expect to leave on the *George Washington* next Tuesday, for a prolonged stay abroad to inquire into

the European recruiting system, and to study military conditions.

I want to emphasize the fact that I am not a rival of President Diaz in Mexican affairs. He is my friend in politics, and I am his friend. I know that of his own will he does not care to be President, and never would accept office again if his wishes were consulted. But the people want him, and like a true patriot he will serve his country.

As for myself, I am only too glad to assist in helping to make Mexico more patriotic and devoted to manufactures, education, and good government. The next election will be held on the second Sunday in July, 1910. The people are already preparing to re-elect Diaz as President.

The day is past for the Napoleonic form of government, with strictly military rule. No man could have achieved more for a country than President Diaz. I know that the people are anxious for him to serve them as President again, and beyond question he will be re-elected.

Undoubtedly any one who knows the temper and desires of the Mexican people will agree with General Reyes in saying that President Diaz will be again elected to the presidency by an almost unanimous vote.

Amada Diaz de La Torre
Daughter of President Diaz

CHAPTER XIII

PRIVATE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DIAZ

THE foregoing pages have given our readers, we hope, a sufficiently clear idea of the services rendered by President Diaz to his country, as a soldier and a statesman. In this chapter we intend to devote our attention to his life as a private citizen.

From his childhood he gave evidences of being active, energetic, and hard working. Two of his principal qualities and traits of character are his memory and his ability to judge and pass upon the qualifications and aptitudes of other men. It is stated that General Ulysses S. Grant never forgot a face. The same may be said of President Diaz. Any one who knows him, who has met him several times, will really wonder at his remarkable memory. Incidents of apparently no importance, facts that to others may be deemed unnecessary to be remembered, will be recalled in all their details by the President, many years after the events to which they refer may have happened. His clear insight into the character of men has

enabled him to choose his chief advisers and those who have aided him in his governmental work from persons who he knew would be most apt to ably perform the services required.

Another of the most prominent traits of his character is sincerity. As Carlyle has rightly expressed it: "No man adequate to do anything, but is first of all in right earnest about it: what I call a sincere man. I should say sincerity, a deep, great, genuine sincerity is the first characteristic of all men in any way heroic."

His astonishing good health and his strong constitution are also distinctive of this wonderful leader of men. At an age when most people would be incapacitated from work, either through disease or the impairment of some of their faculties, President Diaz attends to his business, takes violent exercise, goes out hunting, endures great fatigue, and does a vast amount of work. Undoubtedly his regular and abstemious habits greatly contribute to attain the result to which we refer.

He generally rises at six o'clock in the morning, and after his bath he takes a slight repast, and is ready for work. He then devotes one or two hours to his private correspondence and to the reading of the press, sometimes noting with pencil some of its most striking passages.

All the winter and spring he remains in the City of Mexico at his private residence in Cadena Street, while he spends the summer at Chapultepec

Castle, although then he comes down to the city regularly, on the days set aside for public receptions or for any private or public functions at which he may have to be present.

When in the city, he is usually at the Palace at nine o'clock, and at that hour either there or at Chapultepec he attends to his private correspondence with his efficient private secretary, Mr. Rafael Chousal, whose many years of constant service at the side of the President peculiarly fit him for the prompt despatch of his correspondence. At ten or half-past ten o'clock, he begins to confer with his ministers, each one of whom has separate days of the week to meet the President for the resolution of public matters entrusted to the appropriate department, although he usually receives daily for such purpose the Secretaries of Finance and War.

At about half-past one in the afternoon, he returns as a general rule to his private residence on Cadena Street, and takes lunch with his wife and some members of his family, and afterwards enjoys a slight rest.

He returns to the National Palace at four o'clock on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to receive all persons with whom he may have a special appointment, and whose names have been inscribed in a register. From the list thus made, he selects the names of those whom he is able to receive according to the time that he may

have at his disposal. He does this also when residing at Chapultepec Castle.

It is sometimes eight and even nine o'clock when his task of receiving visitors is terminated, and then he returns to his home, and after supper, when not going to the theatre or to fill some other engagement, he converses with his family and receives a few friends who perhaps may bring some public matter to his attention.

On the afternoons when he does not receive the public, he visits some public establishment or attends to some other matter of importance.

He usually devotes Sunday afternoons to visiting his intimate friends.

He rarely ever takes a vacation of more than a few days at a time; generally devoting that period to his favorite pastime of hunting. Of late years he has gone to Lake Chapala, where he has spent his few days' vacation in boating and riding.

As before stated, President Diaz has been married twice, his first wife having died during his first term of office.

The present Mrs. Diaz is, as mentioned in a former part of this work, the eldest daughter of the late Secretary of the Interior, Honorable Manuel Romero Rubio.

The marriage of President and Mrs. Diaz took place on the 7th of November, 1882, at the house of the bride's father, No. 5 San Andres Street, City of Mexico. As it is customary in Mexico

Porfirio Diaz, Jr., Wife and Children

there was a church ceremony and a civil one; at the former Archbishop Pelagio A. de Labastida officiated, while the civil contract was signed before Judge Felipe Buenrostro.

On the same date in the year 1907 President and Mrs. Diaz celebrated their silver wedding, or 25th anniversary of their marriage. The celebration of that event was simple in its nature, there being a breakfast for the family and intimate friends and an excursion to a country place near the volcano of Popocatepetl. As is customary on these occasions they were recipients of many and elegant silver presents.

Mrs. Diaz is a most accomplished woman, knows and speaks several languages, and was educated at home and abroad. Her great charm of manner and her kindness of heart have made her most popular, and she is designated by all classes of society by the endearing term of "Carmelita." Not only does she perform her duties in society gracefully and well, but her charitable instincts continually make her devote her leisure moments to most worthy objects. One of these is the promotion and maintenance of the "Casa Amiga de la Obrera" (Working Woman's Home), an institution established by her and that, as its name implies, renders great benefit to the working classes of the Republic.

President Diaz has had no children by his second marriage. His son and daughters are Amada, married to Mr. Ignacio de la Torre,

Lieutenant-Colonel Porfirio Diaz, Jr., and Luz, married to Mr. F. Rincon Gallardo.

The eldest daughter has taken a most prominent part in social functions, and is greatly admired for her beauty and sympathetic nature; her resemblance to her father is most remarkable. Lieutenant-Colonel Porfirio Diaz, Jr., is a civil engineer by profession, and besides devoting part of his time to the exercise of that profession, he also acts as a member of the President's staff. He is active, open-hearted, and fond of study. He is married to the daughter of the late Senator Genaro Raigosa, who was President of the Second Pan-American Conference. Although the son of one who has been at the head of the government for so many years, he has never endeavored to owe his advancement in military life to his father's favor, but to his own meritorious service. The second daughter, owing to illness and to her having quite a large family, has not taken part as actively as one would suppose in social functions, but has devoted herself to her home life.

Mrs. Diaz has two charming sisters, one being the widow of the late Senator Teresa, who for some time served as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Mexico to Austria. She has a son José, who has been partly educated in the United States. Her other sister is Sofia, married to Mr. Lorenzo Elizaga, a prominent lawyer and Congressman; they have one child only.

President Diaz has several grandchildren, the sons and daughters of Lieutenant-Colonel Porfirio Diaz, Jr., and of Mrs. Rincon Gallardo. All the members of the family are thoroughly united, and, though living apart, they see each other daily and take part in their mutual joys and sorrows. They all look up to the President with reverence, love, and admiration, not only as the Executive of the nation, but as the kind and affectionate head of the family.

Both President and Mrs. Diaz, although charmed with their home life and loving their beautiful surroundings and their kind friends in the City of Mexico, do not dislike travelling, and they have visited great many of the states of the Mexican Republic and of the American Union. Although on various occasions a proposed trip to Europe has been talked of, so far they have never left the American continent.

President Diaz knows thoroughly his own country, because, both before and after becoming President, he made himself acquainted even with some of the outlying districts and places, which other Mexican statesmen have never visited. This knowledge of his country has been most useful to him for the proper administration of the public affairs of the nation.

Perhaps there is no man living who has been shown such honors and received so many marks of distinction from foreign sovereigns. In the Appendices we shall endeavor to give as complete a list

as possible of the medals and decorations received by him from all the leading countries of the world, besides those that have been bestowed on him at home for his military feats.

Being brought up as a soldier, President Diaz did not devote himself to public speaking during his early life, but since he assumed the presidency, he has become a fluent and eloquent speaker, ready at any time to give his views clearly and with proper effect on any question brought before him, and with relation to any event or circumstance.

Although in the main chapters of this work some reference has been made to the battles and sieges in which he took part, these have been so many that we have mentioned only those of great importance, but in the Appendices will be found a full list, together with a map that may serve to give a proper understanding as to the places where they occurred and to locate them.

Despite the fact that he has been wounded in battle and that he has led and is still leading a most active and strenuous life, President Diaz is to-day hale and hearty, strong and ruddy, and in the full possession of all his mental faculties.

Gladstone, speaking of Macaulay, said: "One of the first things that must strike the observer of this man is, that he was very unlike any other man." Those who have met President Diaz will agree that this remark is applicable to him and

Luz Diaz de Rincon Gallardo
Daughter of President Diaz

that he strikes one as an extraordinary man, as one different from and superior to most men, and in every way as a man whose face and bearing can never be forgotten.

CHAPTER XIV

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

BEFORE closing this sketch of the life of one of the leading statesmen of this continent now living, it is perhaps proper, and it may also prove interesting, to summarize in a few pages what he has accomplished for his own country, what is its present condition, and what the future probably has in store for the Mexican Republic.

As we have seen, President Diaz is one of those men who have begun life without any special advantages over their fellow-men; he started at the foot of the ladder of fame and has reached its very top. Under the most discouraging circumstances and overcoming what appeared to be insurmountable obstacles; without great influence, family connections, wealth, or powerful friends at the start, he has attained the highest public position in his own country and by the unanimous consent of his countrymen, as it were, he has remained there at the head of its affairs for over a quarter of a century, and those countrymen still express their desire that he may con-

tinue to hold the reins of government for years to come.

It is difficult to tell accurately what are all the causes and circumstances that have brought about his most brilliant career. Those who have read the foregoing pages can form their own judgment, and in the succeeding chapter we give the opinions of many of the most prominent men in the United States and Canada regarding Mexico and its present Executive. We think that all will agree that, taking into consideration the traits of his character and what he has done for his country, he well deserves the place and station he holds among the Mexican people.

The life of this great leader may be divided into two periods: the one devoted in its entirety to military achievements; the other to statesmanship.

As a soldier we have seen him start as a volunteer, when quite a young man, and then, through his bravery and tact, win his military degrees one by one, until he reached the very highest rank. In that military career, besides having performed the usual exploits of those who follow it, he had in various instances narrow escapes from death that are extraordinary and romantic in the extreme, and everywhere he displayed great valor, forethought, and perseverance.

In order to review his public life as a statesman, we would merely have to examine the official records of the Mexican Government, as there we would find it fully described. The most

interesting part of his life as such is undoubtedly that which began in 1884, when for the second time he assumed the reins of government. With a depleted treasury, with everything adverse to him, and with Mexico's credit abroad at the lowest ebb possible, President Diaz began one of the most brilliant and important administrative campaigns ever recorded, and initiated a most sound policy, which has brought about great and satisfactory results. Although, in former pages of this work, we have referred to his administrative acts, they are so interesting and so necessary to the proper understanding of the present condition of Mexico and to get a correct idea of the far-seeing statesmanship of General Diaz, that we cannot forego summarizing them here. And for that purpose we shall refer not only to the messages which he presented to the Mexican Congress at the beginning of each session, and to other public documents, but also to his official reports, addressed to his countrymen, published at the end of each presidential term, although there was no requirement on the part of the Constitution or the laws for his so doing.

On the last day of his first administration, that is, the one that preceded the term of President Gonzalez, he said in his report or statement then issued to his countrymen:

On this solemn day, the last of my constitutional period, I am not required by law to give an account

Mrs. Luz Diaz de Rincon Gallardo and Two of her Children

Mrs. Amada Diaz de la Torre and Two Children of Lt.-Col. Porfirio Diaz, Jr.

Mrs. Maria Luisa Romero Rubio de Teresa and her Nephew

to the legislature of the condition in which the country is left by me: but my own conscience, frankness, and good faith, and other circumstances, well known to all, and which appeal to me especially, make me consider as a sacred obligation the necessity of addressing myself to my fellow-citizens, so as to inform them how and in what degree I have been able to pay the debt which I contracted when they placed in my hands the executive power that to-morrow I shall deliver to the successor whom they have legally designated.

I am very far from pretending that I can be considered the only and exclusive factor in the advancement made by the nation during the small portion of its history which has occurred during my administration. It is a very common error to attribute to one man alone the events of importance which take place in his country during his lifetime. Those events are always the necessary results of many circumstances, some of which are logically and slowly combined, while others occur suddenly and by chance. The man that the public looks to as the most visible point is but an incident in the aggregate results, and if it were possible at any one moment to eliminate one circumstance or cause alone of those that surround him, the events would follow a very different direction that perhaps might defeat his best laid plans.

In the present case, the desire for peace, tranquillity, and progress which the nation felt, the substitution of former functionaries, whose activity had been exhausted through lack of faith, by others who were vigorous and active; the powerful aid imparted by the Federal Congress; the measures initiated by the states; and, finally, the efficacious co-operation of the

members of the cabinet, were the principal elements which brought about the improvements that during the last four years we have been able to introduce in all the branches of the public service.

The above words of President Diaz, like many that we will find in other documents emanating from him, show clearly his modesty and his desire to attribute to others his successful acts, the credit to which he is rightly entitled.

To obtain a clear idea of what progress and advancement Mexico has had during the last thirty years, while most of the time President Diaz has been at the head of the administration, it would be well to compare the conditions existing in the Republic in the year 1876 with those at the present moment.

Mexico had then few diplomatic representatives accredited to other countries, while to-day all the leading nations of Europe and America, as well as China, Japan, and Persia, have ministers or chargés d'affaires at the City of Mexico, and Mexican diplomats reside in all the capitals of those nations. The consular corps of Mexico has likewise increased and proved most efficient; and the diplomatic and consular services are established under permanent and proper regulations.

Furthermore, since the first administration of President Diaz treaties of commerce and friendship, extradition, and others of various kinds have

been entered into with the leading nations of the globe.

The annoying and difficult boundary questions with Guatemala and Belize have been satisfactorily arranged by means of conventions which settled the rights of all; and in our northern border, all questions likewise arising from boundaries and other similar subjects are in the hands of a competent commission, while the difficulties due to the changes in the current and bed of the Rio Grande and Colorado rivers are being attended to.

Our friendly relations with all foreign countries are closer than ever, and the participation of Mexican delegates at The Hague conferences, at the Pan-American conventions, and at other gatherings of international character, as well as the valuable exhibits sent to the universal expositions held in Europe and the United States and to which we have already referred, have given Mexico a high standing and lasting influence among the civilized countries of the world.

We may add here that besides the congresses already mentioned, Mexico has taken part very recently in the International Agronomical Institute held at Rome; in the Fourth International Congress of Fisheries, in the Conference for the Conservation of the Natural Resources, and in the International Tuberculosis Congress, all of which were held at Washington, D. C.; in the first Pan-American Scientific Congress held at the city of

Santiago, Chile, and in the Pan-American Sanitary Convention held in December, 1909, at the City of San José, Costa Rica.

President Diaz has been most successful in his dealings with all questions relating to the intercourse between the Federal and State governments, and difficult questions of boundaries, privileges, and rights have been equitably settled; while controversies arising from election contests, which in two or three instances might have given rise to difficulties of a serious character, have been arranged through the vigorous, prompt, and well directed action of the Federal Executive.

We may here remark that most of the statistical data that we give in this work refer to what has been undertaken and performed by the Federal Government. We may also add that the same march of improvement that is noticeable in federal affairs has likewise been carried on in the various states of the Mexican Republic, as well as in the municipalities of the same. Nevertheless, the character of this work precludes us from making more than this passing reference to such improvements and progress, which do not refer directly to the life and work of President Diaz.

One of the subjects to which great attention has been given while President Diaz has been in power, is that of public hygiene, and under the able direction of the Secretary of the Interior, Vice-President of the Republic, Mr. Ramon Corral, actively assisted by the eminent physician Dr.

Chapultepec Castle

Eduardo Liceaga, the sanitary conditions of the Republic have been greatly improved, a Sanitary Code is being rigidly enforced, and the extirpation of yellow fever and the prevention of epidemics have very properly called forth the plaudits of foreign nations.

The improvements effected in the rural police, the amelioration of the jails and houses of detention, and the inauguration of a large and well built penitentiary in the Federal District, in conformity with the most approved methods of prison management, have shown that the Department of the Interior has given due attention to those subjects. Likewise the inauguration of the general hospital in the City of Mexico, introducing therein all modern improvements in hospital service, has undoubtedly contributed to the diminution of the number of persons afflicted with disease and to their cure. To those who have visited the blind, the deaf, and the orphan asylums at the capital, the progress made in such establishments has been plainly visible.

The embellishment and improvements noticeable in all the cities of the Republic and especially at the seat of the Federal Government, such as sewerage, lighting, and other municipal services, as well as the extension of the area wherein modern buildings have been erected, clearly testify the prosperity of the nation and the well directed efforts of the Government on the subject of municipal reform and improvement.

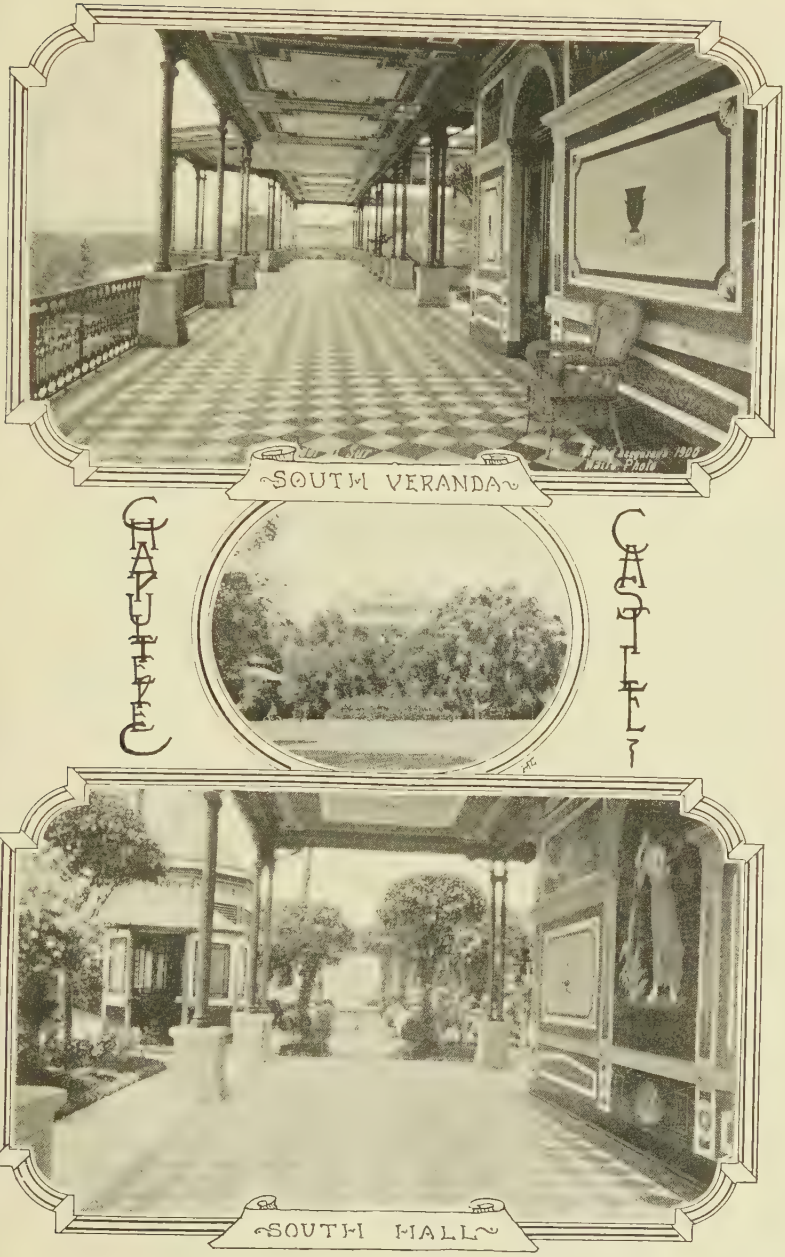
Notable advancement has been made in the Department of Justice. The courts have better and more commodious quarters, and modifications of an important nature have been made in the administration of the law, so as to insure promptness and despatch in judicial matters, as well as to render less costly and complicated the controversies brought by litigants before the federal courts.

Owing to the separation effected between the administration of the Departments of Justice and Public Instruction, the latter being now under a new member of the cabinet designated as the Secretary of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, special attention has been given to the latter branch of the public service in the Federal District and the territories.

The educational establishments for provisional studies have also greatly improved, and all those institutions in the City of Mexico are to be consolidated into a great university, to be inaugurated during the centenary of Mexican Independence.

The Department of Public Promotion, now under the able direction of Mr. Olegario Molina, former Governor of the State of Yucatan, has done valuable and important work during the period to which we make reference.

The survey of public lands, as well as the sale of the same, proceeded at a rapid rate, and the mining industry developed to a great extent. Thus, during the fiscal year of 1908–1909 the



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total production of gold and silver in the Republic amounted to $125,894,089.33. Of course, silver represents the larger amount, and Mexico now is considered as the first silver-producing country in the world. The notable increase in the production of gold is most remarkable, as in the fiscal year of 1877–78 it was $1,473,912.32, while in the fiscal year of 1907–1908 it reached the sum of $40,527,185.20. Another metal whose production has increased in a remarkable manner, is copper, and at present there are two enterprises in Mexico for the exploitation of that metal, viz., El Boleo, a French company in the territory of Lower California, and that of Cananea in the State of Sonora, which can compare favorably, in every respect, with any similar enterprises in any other part of the world. Gold, silver, and copper are the mineral substances whose production is of greater importance in Mexico; yet, iron, coal, and other minerals are being exploited on a large scale in the Republic.

Agriculture has received an impetus, especially since the inauguration of great irrigation works in various states.

Industrial enterprises, especially those organized for the manufacture of textile fabrics and cigars, have been making most wonderful progress, and companies having several million dollars of capital have been established within the last few years with machinery of the very latest patterns.

During the year 1900, the official census was

carried into effect, and it showed, as before stated, that the total population of the Republic aggregated 13,546,700 inhabitants, while in 1878 it amounted to 9,384,193 inhabitants.

We need not here refer again to the success attained by Mexico at various universal expositions, such as those held at Chicago, Buffalo, Paris, and St. Louis, Mo.

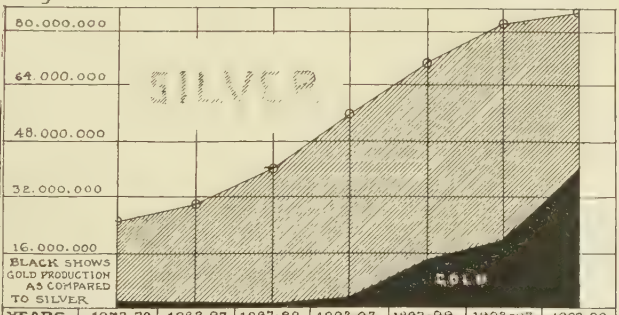
As during the administration of President Diaz a new department was organized especially devoted to communications and public works, we may also glance at the satisfactory results attained by that department, which has been at various times under the direction of General Manuel Gonzalez Cosio, General Francisco Z. Mena, and at present under Mr. Leandro Fernandez. One of the most important labors of that department is that relating to railways. And here, since the policy pursued by President Diaz regarding railroad construction can be considered pertinent to this subject, we may be allowed to quote the following from the interesting work of the late Mexican Ambassador Mr. Matias Romero, entitled *Mexico and the United States.*

President Diaz deserves a great deal of credit for his efforts to promote in Mexico material improvement, especially in railroad building. When he came into power in 1877 public opinion was very much divided as to the policy of allowing citizens of the United States to develop the resources of the country by building railroads, working mines, etc. Our

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER

[BY FIVE YEAR PERIODS]

YEARS	1877-78	1882-83	1887-88	1892-93	1897-98	1902-03	1907-08
PESOS	1.473.912	1.886.513	1 311.514	2.506.907	14.971.835	19.872.147	40.527.185



YEARS	1877-78	1882-83	1887-88	1892-93	1897-98	1902-03	1907-08
PESOS	24.836.903	29.568.576	39.367.982	55.245.434	70.149.605	82.808.782	85.366.904

experience of what took place in consequence of the liberal grants given by Mexico to Texan colonists made many fear that a repetition of that liberal policy might endanger the future of the country by giving a foothold in it to citizens of the United States who might afterward, if circumstances favored them, attempt to repeat the case of Texas. President Lerdo de Tejada seemed to share such fear, judging by his policy in this regard. But President Diaz, as a broad-minded and patriotic statesman, believed that the best interest of the country required its material development, and that it would not be advisable to discriminate against citizens of the United States, as that country was more interested than any other, on account of its contiguity to Mexico, in developing the resources of our country by building an extensive system of railways, and would, therefore, be more ready than any other to assist in building it. He trusted at the same time that, when the resources of the country should be more fully developed, it would become so strong as to be beyond reach of the temptations by foreign states or individuals. The results of the work done in Mexico so far show that General Diaz acted wisely, and proved himself equal to the task before him.

The extension of railroad lines in the Republic in 1877, when President Diaz first came into power, was 578 kilometres, while in 1909 it was over 24,160 kilometres.

Among the railways built there are lines of international importance, such as the Mexican Central, the Mexican National, and the Mexican

International, connecting the leading cities of the Republic with the frontier towns of the United States; the Tehuantepec Railroad and the branch of the Mexican Central connecting the Pacific Ocean with the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pan-American Railroad that reaches the Guatemalan frontier. Another important railroad lately completed is the extension of the Southern Pacific from the American frontier to the port of Mazatlan, State of Sinaloa, which was inaugurated in April, 1909.

It would take too much space to give in detail the progress attained by Mexico during the last few years in the extension of its telegraph and railroad lines and in the improvement of its mail service, but the tables and maps which form part of this work will give our readers graphic and precise information on those subjects.

Wireless telegraphy has also been introduced in the Republic and at present there are several stations in operation, while others have been planned or are in course of erection.

We have already had occasion to speak of the wonderful work done by the Department of Finance and Public Credit. Its labors have been praised and highly commented upon by all foreign financiers, and have brought about the greatest confidence regarding all financial operations undertaken by Mexico, placing her credit abroad as high as that of any nation. Whenever a loan has been issued, it has immediately been taken up by the

leading bankers of the world, even when the Government shall have merely guaranteed its payment, as was the case in the winter of 1908, when bonds for irrigation purposes, upheld by the credit of the Mexican Government, were considerably over-subscribed, both in the United States and in Europe.

The banking facilities of the country have been greatly increased, as is shown by the following figures: On June 30, 1897, there were ten banks in the Republic under concessions of the Federal Government, and their total assets amounted to $146,746,108.36, while on the 30th of June, 1908, the number of such institutions of credit was thirty-four, and their total assets amounted to $756,527,309.50.

If we now examine the figures referring to foreign commerce, we will readily understand the great advancement made in Mexico in that regard. In the fiscal year of 1875–76 the total value of exports was $27,318,188 silver, and the importations amounted to a little over $37,586,987; while in the fiscal year 1908–09 the total exportations amounted to $231,101,795 silver, and the importations to $156,504,447.

The large amount of revenue now obtained has permitted the Government to correspondingly increase its expenses; and thus we see that while during the fiscal year of 1876–77 the appropriations authorized by Congress amounted in the aggregate, in round figures, to $25,000,000 silver, that aggre-

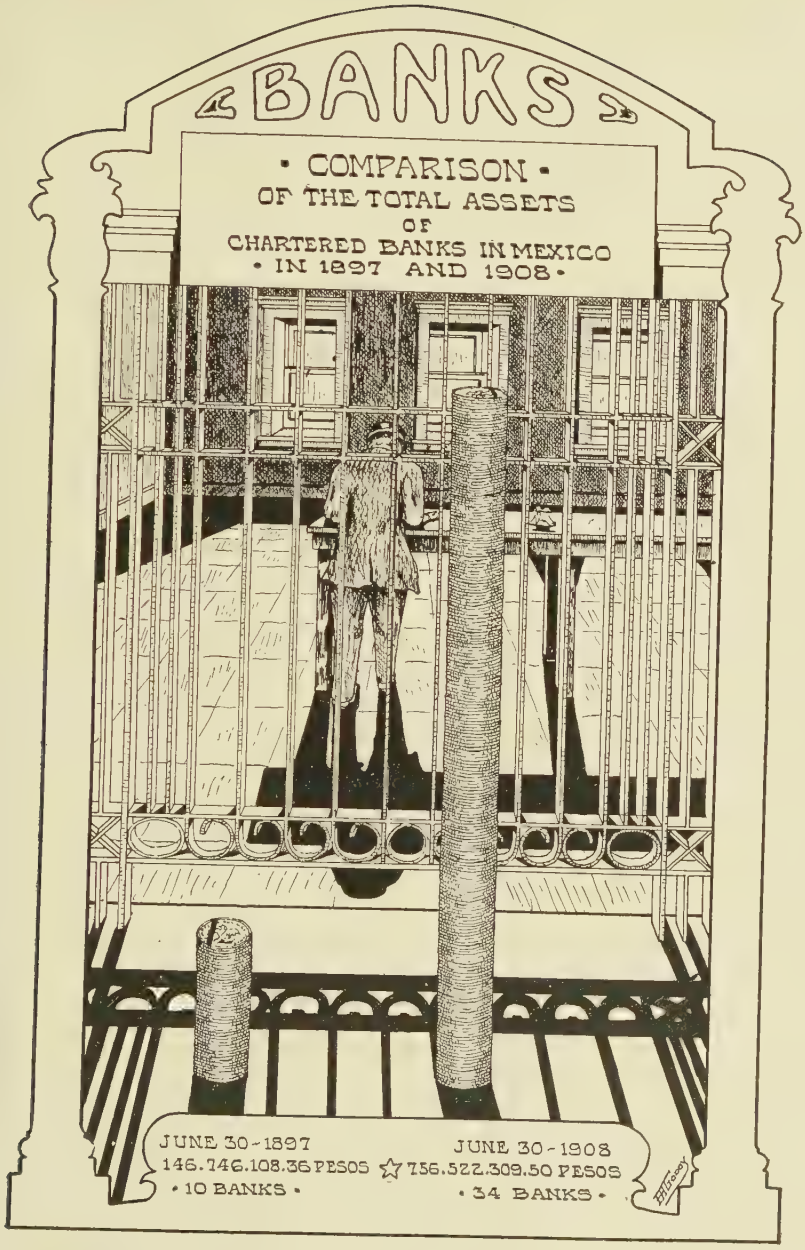
gate for the fiscal year 1909–10 is $97,871,750.96. And it may be here added that, while formerly there always was a deficit, during the last few years there has always been a balance in favor of the treasury amounting to several million dollars.

We may finally say that among the commendable labors of the Department of Finance and Public Credit, reference should again be made to the abolition of all internal imports as between the states, to the change so skilfully effected in the monetary system of the Republic to a gold basis, and to the consolidation of most of the railroads in operation to be under the control of the Federal Government.

President Diaz has paid great attention to the work of the Department of War and Navy which is now under the able direction of General Manuel Gonzalez Cosio. Accordingly we find that the efficiency of the army has been increased, having been supplied with new guns and cannon, most of which were manufactured in the Republic, some being made under the patent of General Mondragon, a member of the Mexican army.

The National Military School at Chapultepec has been greatly improved and so has the National Arms Factory. Although strictly the rural guards do not form a part of the regular army, we may here make reference to them, and say that their bearing and discipline and good service deserve the praise that is generally bestowed on them.

The Mexican navy consists merely of a few gun-


BANKS
• COMPARISON •
OF THE TOTAL ASSETS
OF
CHARTERED BANKS IN MEXICO
• IN 1897 AND 1908 •
JUNE 30-1897
146.746.108.36 PESOS
• 10 BANKS •
JUNE 30-1908
756.522.309.50 PESOS
• 34 BANKS •

boats; two of them, the *Tampico* and *Vera Cruz*, were recently built in the United States and two others, the *Bravo* and *Morelos*, in Italy.

The economic crisis experienced in 1908, throughout the United States, as well as in Mexico; the continued depreciation of silver; the earthquakes occurring in the State of Guerrero; the floods in the states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, and the failure of the crops in many other states of the Republic due to frosts in 1909, have not halted the march of progress and advancement of Mexico, but have really served to prove how readily the nation can recuperate its losses and continue onward along the pathway of peace and prosperity.

After this cursory review, we think that the friends of Mexico and its people ought to feel gratified and pleased at the condition of the Republic, under the peaceful and well regulated administration of Porfirio Diaz.

There never was a period in its history when Mexico's relations with other countries were as friendly and as close as at present. This is the case with reference to the United States as evidenced in more ways than one, especially in the mutual respect and regard towards each other manifested by President Diaz on the one hand, and Ex-President Roosevelt and President Taft on the other, both through public documents and in private conversations and interviews published by the press.

President Diaz can well apply to the policy he

is pursuing, to his administrative acts, and to the present condition of his country, the eloquent words of Daniel Webster:

> Let our age be the age of improvement. In a day of peace, let us advance the arts of peace and the works of peace. Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered. Let us cultivate the true spirit of union and harmony. . . . Let our conceptions be enlarged to the circle of our duties. Let us extend our ideas over the whole of the vast field in which we are called to act. Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country.

Many who acknowledge and admire the satisfactory condition of Mexico at the present time express the fear that it may not continue when the present honored head of the Government shall no longer direct national affairs.

The late Matias Romero, in the work already quoted, answers the above in the following words:

> Mexico for nearly twenty years [now thirty years] has been free from political disturbances and enjoying all the advantages of a permanent peace. Those who took part in former revolutions have either died off, disappeared, or are now interested in the maintenance of peace, because they are thriving in consequence of the development of the country. Even in case President Diaz's guidance should fail Mexico, I am

sure peace would still be preserved, because there are very strong reasons in its favor. Railways and telegraphs are great preservers of peace. In case of insurrection it was not long ago that it took months before the government could reach the insurgents, and in the meantime they could organize and fortify themselves and make considerable headway before they were confronted by an enemy. Now the Government can send troops at once to quell an insurrection. Peace in Mexico is as assured as it is in any other country, and life and property are as safe there as anywhere else. Public opinion seems to share this view, and capital, especially foreign capital, which is so conservative and timid, is now freely invested in Mexican enterprises.

President Diaz's health and vigorous constitution lead us to hope that he may yet rule the destinies of the Republic for many years to come, in compliance with the unanimous wish expressed by his countrymen through the press, through public manifestations and in all conceivable ways.

Still, should anything prevent his guiding the ship of state, as he has laid the foundations of peace and order deep and indestructible, we may rest assured that, under the conditions existing at present in the nation, and brought about by his foresight and administrative skill, Mexico will continue to be a progressive, enlightened, and peaceful Republic.

CHAPTER XV

OPINIONS OF PROMINENT MEN REGARDING PRESIDENT DIAZ AS A SOLDIER AND STATESMAN

IT would take too long to quote at length the opinions and commentaries of noted men and important publications in the English-speaking countries, regarding the life and career of President Porfirio Diaz. It would also occupy too much space to give even a slight *resume* of the occasions of a public nature, occurring in the United States and Canada, wherein a passing or elaborate reference has been made to such life and character. In the appendices to this work we give a description of two of the most recent public festivities or events, in which special reference has been made to his deeds and administrative acts: one being the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, held in November, 1908, on which occasion the name of President Diaz evoked great enthusiasm, said banquet having been partially dedicated to him and to his country; and the other the memorable interview held at the frontier on the 16th of Oc-

Manuel Gonzalez Cosio
Secretary of War and Navy

tober, 1909, between the Presidents of Mexico and the United States.

We have also the pleasure, which we deem a high honor, to insert in this chapter the opinions and commentaries especially written for this work, by some of the most noted men in the United States and Canada, including most eminent statesmen, diplomats, governors, federal officials, army and navy leaders, presidents of universities, literary writers, newspaper editors, successful bankers, and in fact men from all leading walks of life, all of whom are cognizant of the facts that constitute the life of President Diaz and of the services he has rendered to his country, and many of whom personally know him or have visited or resided in the Mexican Republic, and whose impartial and unbiased views we know will be received by our readers with pleasure and great weight will be given to them.

The following are the opinions to which we refer, written especially for this work, as before stated, and that we present in alphabetical order, according to the names of their noted authors.

ADEE, ALVEY A., Second Assistant Secretary of State of the United States:

I have always felt a repugnance to seeing any personal expression of my opinion on public subjects put into cold type.

I may, however, truthfully say that my admiration for President Diaz's high qualities has steadily grown

year by year, as he himself has grown in the experience and ability which are so indispensable to his high office. His career is one especially fitted to serve as a model for all those who aspire to rise in the world by merit and by their own sheer effort. Coming from the people and knowing the needs of the people, his course in rising from one high plane to another has always obeyed his keen sense of what the people of his country need,—stability and the opportunity for healthful advancement. Keeping these vital conditions in view, it is no cause for wonder that he, aided by the cordial support of his countrymen, has made his people, his country, and himself, what they are to-day.

Bailey, J. W., United States Senator:

I am pleased to know that you are preparing a biography in English of President Diaz, for such a publication will be both valuable and interesting. Of course, I understand that no one outside of Mexico can fully appreciate the great work which President Diaz has done for his country and his countrymen; but I know enough of his services to consider him entitled to a high place among the great statesmen of the world. In common with all other intelligent people of the United States, I feel the deepest interest in the progress and prosperity of Mexico, and I shall feel a sense of personal obligation to you for presenting to our people a history of a man who has contributed so much to both.

Barrett, John, Director of the International Bureau of American Republics:

President Diaz undoubtedly stands out as one of

the monumental characters of Pan-American history. The historian who writes in the near future, or a thousand years from now, will not fail to place him in a unique position of prominence, influence, and character. There are few names in the development of the Western Hemisphere from the time of Columbus until now, which are better known from Canada south to Argentina. Throughout the United States there is a profound and sincere respect and admiration for his personality and his power of administering the affairs of his country, forcefully and yet kindly. The material, social and educational advancement which Mexico has made during his incumbency as President is not surpassed by the record of any president or ruler for a corresponding time in the history of the world. This observation is in no sense fulsome praise, nor is it prompted by any desire to say kind things of the head of one of the nations belonging to the International Union of American Republics: it is inspired, on the contrary, by thoughts growing out of a careful study of what President Diaz has accomplished and of his personal mental and moral traits. A biography, therefore, written by such an able authority as Mr. Godoy, should be widely read by those who wish to be thoroughly informed about the leading characters of contemporaneous Pan-American history.

BARTHOLDT, RICHARD, United States Representative:

President Diaz of Mexico will go down in history as one of the grandest figures of the Western Hemisphere. He is regarded by the outside world as a

benefactor of his country, and as the embodiment of law and order as well as of all peaceful achievements, and he is almost as popular in the United States as he justly is in his own country.

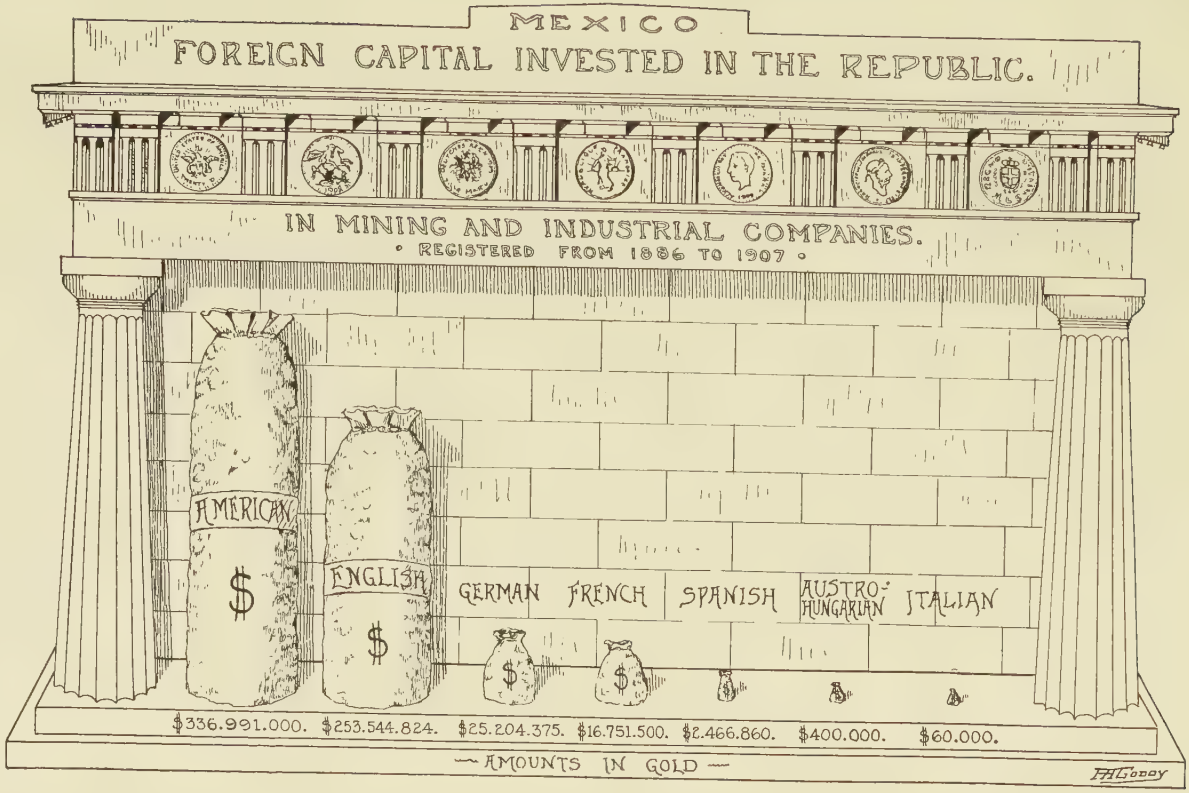
BATES, E. A., General (retired), United States Army:

I have watched the career of this great soldier statesman from the beginning to this time and always with the greatest admiration. His early exploits as a soldier proved his power and ability in that line, which taken together with his sincere patriotism naturally brought him to the head of affairs, when his success had contributed so greatly to establish the real independence of his country. His amazing executive ability, his far-sighted statesmanship, his liberal views, so in accord with his times, his firmness and honesty in dealing with the great problems of state he has had to solve, has enabled him to organize the Government of Mexico on a permanent basis, and to guide it in its progress upward until now we have reason to believe it will continue its stable course, after his strong controlling hand has been taken from the helm.

Many men have been "Father" of their respective countries, but few have had such an unquestionable right to that title as Porfirio Diaz, President of Modern Mexico. I regard him to-day as being one of the greatest, if not the greatest living statesman.

BELL, J. FRANKLIN, Major-General, Chief of Staff of the United States Army:

It affords me very great pleasure to avail myself of


MEXICO
FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTED IN THE REPUBLIC.
IN MINING AND INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES.
REGISTERED FROM 1886 TO 1907
AMERICAN
$
ENGLISH
$
GERMAN
FRENCH
SPANISH
AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN
ITALIAN
$336.991.000.
$253.544.824.
$25.204.375.
$16.751.500.
$2.466.860.
$400.000.
$60.000.
AMOUNTS IN GOLD
F.A. Cobby

this opportunity to express my admiration for the magnificent qualities and achievements of President Porfirio Diaz—in some respects the most remarkable ruler of the age. Every one at all versed in history will concede, I think, that President Diaz is a statesman and executive who seems to have been specially raised and developed by fate to meet certain conditions and to occupy a particular place in the affairs of our great sister Republic, Mexico. Certain it is that no one else could have filled that place so well as he.

But it is upon his abilities as a soldier that my interest has been naturally most centered, and I like to honor the profession by referring to him, in this connection, as *General* Diaz. In all of his public endeavors, from the time when he first entered upon a military career, through the turbulent years that intervened until his election to the presidency, and since then in suppressing occasional disorders during his very prosperous administration, General Diaz has exhibited that force, energy, and indomitable courage which go to make up the ideal soldier. Nothing has been impossible of accomplishment, and obstacles only served to make him more earnest and determined. His is a strong character, indeed, and he will undoubtedly go down in history as one of the world's greatest leaders.

BLISS, C. N., Ex-Secretary of the Interior:

The remarkable work of President Porfirio Diaz in the establishment of modern and efficient government in the Republic of Mexico is well known and appreciated in the United States and throughout the world.

The great progress in establishing good government, education, and financial stability in the Republic, during the past fifty years, is proof of the ability with which the government has been administered and also of the patriotism and intelligence of the Mexican people. Citizens of the United States are greatly interested just now in the event about to occur of the meeting of the Presidents of the United States and Mexico at El Paso. May that happily planned meeting be a visible proof of the pleasant, kindly feeling that exists between the two peoples, and evidence that such good feeling will always continue, to the mutual benefit and progress of the peoples of the two republics.

Bone, Scott C., Editor of the *Washington Herald* and President of the Gridiron Club:

The strong character of Porfirio Diaz, and his remarkably successful career as President of the Republic of Mexico, have long challenged the admiration of Americans. They have watched with great interest the wonderful development of the country under his wise administration and been deeply impressed with the freedom from strife throughout it all. He has ruled wisely. The president of no other republic has ever so stamped his personality upon a country, for such a length of time. The beneficial effects of his governmental policies, and the lesson of his personal life will endure forever. The press of this country has paid tribute to him many times in the past and rejoices in paying tribute to his greatness to-day.

Brewer, David J., Justice of the United States Supreme Court:

Evidently President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico is one of the strong men of the day, and has accomplished a great deal in securing peace and order in that country and in developing its civilization.

Brooks, Bryant B., Governor of the State of Wyoming:

Four years ago, while visiting Mexico City, I had the great honor and pleasure of meeting President Diaz on three different occasions, and I can state frankly that I consider him one of the greatest generals, scholars, and statesmen that I have ever met. Both republics, as well as the entire civilized world, stand indebted to President Diaz for his marvellous reorganization and successful administration of affairs in Mexico.

Broussard, Robert F., United States Representative:

Mr. Diaz, in my judgment, is one of the foremost statesmen of the age. His position, for so many years, as head of the Republic of Mexico has been a trying one, requiring the highest skill of statesmanship, great firmness of character, and good judgment to successfully carry it out. He has met every difficulty, and promptly solved it; he has placed Mexico in a position to advance very rapidly and to develop her natural resources, which, to me, seem scarcely to have been touched.

There can be no doubt that a continuance of a

policy he has pursued will, in a short while, bring Mexico to the front as one of the richest nations of the world. Her timber, her enormous mineral wealth, and her agricultural possibilities are matters little known to investors.

The stable government which he has maintained in the Republic, if continued, must inevitably bring out the very best there is in the development of these resources, and when that time comes Mexico will take a prominent place.

BROWN, ELMER ELLSWORTH, Commissioner of Education of the United States:

As Americans, we take pride in the great contribution to civilization which President Diaz has made in his long administration of the affairs of our Sister Republic of Mexico. The interest in his great work is widespread in this country. In particular, the attention of American educators has been directed to the great progress which education has made in Mexico during President Diaz's administration, culminating in the organization of the great National University, which is to be opened in the near future.

BROWN, H. B., Former Justice of the United States Supreme Court:

I never met President Diaz but once—at a public reception given by him in the City of Mexico. I was much impressed by the gravity and dignity of his face and could well understand his power as a statesman and his popularity with the people.

It will always be said to his credit that he was the

Justo Sierra
Secretary of Public Instruction and Fine Arts

first to establish a stable government in Mexico, since the Republic was proclaimed, and that his administration has not only commanded the affections of his own people, but the admiration of all foreign powers.

BROWN, PHILIP, American Minister to Honduras:

I consider it a great privilege, though I hesitate to venture any comments concerning a man of such heroic mould, a man of the century, whom one instinctively classifies with Bismarck, Cavour, and Lincoln. It is a task which should only be undertaken by men of special talents and a profound knowledge of public men and affairs.

I desire simply to state that I have always had the greatest admiration for the splendid statesmanship and colossal strength of character which President Diaz has unfailingly shown in the face of immense difficulties and unreasoning criticism in directing the destinies of Mexico.

Whenever the opportunity has presented itself in my diplomatic relations with the statesmen of Central America, where, as you know, the most baffling and discouraging problems have to be confronted, I have always taken satisfaction in holding up as a model General Porfirio Diaz, who in a large-minded, courageous, and patriotic spirit has faced and solved in large measure the problems of his native land.

BRYAN, WILLIAM J., Presidential Candidate of the Democratic Party of the United States, and Editor of *The Commoner:*

President Diaz has left an indelible impress on his

country. His administration covers an area of great and permanent improvement in the condition of that nation. When I was in the City of Mexico I was especially impressed with his interest in education, and to education the people of Mexico must look for the laying of that broad foundation which is necessary to stable government. I need not comment upon the executive ability of President Diaz. He has won a place among the great executive officers of the world. As one who feels deeply interested in the future of the Republic of Mexico I rejoice in the progress that the country has made under Porfirio Diaz.

Bryce, James, British Ambassador to the United States:

No one who knows the history of Mexico during the last half century, and has followed, however imperfectly, the career of the present head of that Republic can fail to have been impressed by the extraordinary talents, both military and political, which have given lustre to that career. Under the administration of Porfirio Diaz, as its President, Mexico has grown to be a great state, second in the Western Hemisphere to one other only. Her mineral and agricultural resources have been developed with amazing rapidity. A network of railways has now covered her surface, where before there were practically no lines of swift or easy communication. Order and public security have been established everywhere throughout the country. An effective army and police have been created. The different elements of the population live peacefully together and the tran-

quillity of the community is but rarely and slightly disturbed. The national finances have been skilfully regulated, and while the revenue is expanding, and is regularly collected, capital flows freely in from many quarters and industries grow apace. Magnificent public works, including the construction of great harbors, have been executed. The capital has not only become a handsome and well appointed city, but has been rendered much more healthy than it formerly was. Foreigners are welcomed and perfect religious liberty is assured, not only by the law, but by the enlightened policy of the President's government.

Whoever remembers the vicissitudes and troubles, the revolutions and civil wars which fell to the lot of Mexico in the fifty or sixty years which followed the attainment of her independence, will regard with admiration the achievements I have mentioned, and will honour the man to whose energy and capacity they are so largely due.

President Diaz stands out to-day as one of the foremost men in this age of the world.

Burleson, Albert S., United States Representative:

Porfirio Diaz has given the Republic of Mexico a place in the galaxy of progressive nations of the world. His administration of her affairs has drawn his country into terms of lasting friendship with the dominant country of the Western Hemisphere, and in my opinion history will write it that his term as president was the beginning of a glorious era of Mexican national life.

BURTON, THEODORE E., United States Senator:

Porfirio Diaz has won for himself a most notable page in the world's history. Nature is chary with her gifts and it is allotted to but few men to achieve distinction in more than one line of endeavor. Famous as a warrior, President Diaz has won yet greater glory as a statesman. With military sword and epaulettes he pacified his country in the distressing years of civil strife. With peace restored, he laid aside the accoutrements of war to assume the duties of civil leadership.

Possessing the love and respect of his countrymen, President Diaz soon won for himself and his nation the confidence and esteem of the world. Prosperity spread her magic wand over the land. The material advancement and industrial prosperity of Mexico, coincident with his presidency, have aroused the admiration of all nations. His life marks a splendid era in Mexican history.

BURROWS, J. C., United States Senator:

President Diaz is, in my opinion, one of the most eminent statesmen of this or any other time in the history of the world. He has exercised his wonderful genius in enhancing the wealth and power of his nation, and this he has accomplished to an extent that will excite the wonder and admiration of mankind through all future ages.

CANNON, JOSEPH G., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States:

In my opinion, President Diaz is the wisest and safest man who has ever been the executive of any

President Diaz
(From a recent photograph)

country on the American Continent south of the United States.

CARNEGIE, ANDREW, Philanthropist:

One of the most pleasing recollections of my life is that I was received in the City of Mexico in special audience by His Excellency President Diaz, one of the greatest rulers in the world, perhaps the greatest of all, taking into consideration the transformation he has made in Mexico, for he is at once the Moses and the Joshua of his people. He was pioneer and led them upon the path to civilization, and in the late years of his life he beholds the entire civilized world taking Mexico by the hand as a sister nation.

History is to class President Diaz with the few leaders of nations—most of whom have fallen in the hour of victory, while he almost alone has been spared to live and rejoice in the elevation of his people.

CARTER, THOMAS H., United States Senator:

President Porfirio Diaz is entitled to full credit for the establishment of stable government in Mexico with all the advantages and blessings incident thereto. In a broader and larger sense he is entitled to special consideration for his vast contributions to peace and good order throughout Latin-America. By common consent this great man is accorded a place in the front rank of the world's constructive statesmen.

CLARK, CHAMP, United States Representative:

I am delighted to know that you are preparing a biography of President Porfirio Diaz to be printed in English.

I regard him as one of the greatest men now living

or who has lived in the last hundred years. The work which he has done in Mexico is little short of marvellous and gives him a place with Lord Clive, General Washington, and Prince Bismarck as an empire builder.

CLAYTON, POWELL, General, Former American Ambassador to Mexico:

My residence of over eight years in Mexico, as the American diplomatic representative, gave me unusual opportunities to study the character of the soldier and statesman who, during an exceptionally long period, has ruled supreme in that Republic,—a supremacy not based on arbitrary force, but freely accorded by a grateful and confiding people.

Physically, General Diaz is endowed with great bodily strength and constitutional vigor, each well preserved by daily exercises and abstemious habits. His many-sided mentality, like his body, is strong and vigorous. Remarkably quick to perceive, he is equally prompt to act. His power to measure quickly the moral and intellectual stature of men seems intuitive. Firmness, courage, persistency, zeal, and untiring industry in the public service are his prominent traits.

He knows Mexico from capital to border, and his watchful gaze reaches all parts of the Republic. His doors and ears are open to all who come with just complaints.

Though a soldier, his constant exertions are for peace. Liberty-loving, he is the unrelenting adversary of licence.

To him Mexico owes her wonderful development and high standing among civilized nations.

When his bright star shall have set, may its afterglow continue to light Mexico's pathway.

COCKRELL, F. M., Interstate Commerce Commissioner and Ex-United States Senator:

I am a great admirer of President Porfirio Diaz. His long, illustrious, and honorable career as President has demonstrated his wisdom, his statesmanship, and wonderful executive ability, and has proved a blessing to Mexico and her people.

CORTELYOU, GEORGE B., Ex-Secretary of the Treasury:

The career of Porfirio Diaz is certainly one of the most striking in modern times. Coming to the head of the State at a critical period in the history of his country, he has remained for over a quarter of a century a dominant figure in Spanish America, guiding his country with a firm and wise hand in the ways of progress and civilization. Fortunate it is for Mexico that such a man arose, under whose leadership she has been enabled to attain her present high place in the family of nations.

CULLOM, S. M., United States Senator:

I have long considered Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico, as one of the great men of his day and generation. He is a great ruler and his country owes to him a debt of gratitude which it never can repay. It will be a great misfortune for Mexico when the

time comes for him to lay aside the burdens of his high office.

CURRY, GEORGE, Governor of the Territory of New Mexico:

The Republic of Mexico, in the person of Porfirio Diaz, has evolved the highest type of statesman known to the present age. The story of his life should be placed in the hands of every American school-boy as an incentive to patriotism and true manhood.

Diaz has arisen from peonage to the throne of a monarch. For the past thirty years he has been the uncrowned king of a great nation and the savior of the Mexican Republic.

The world is familiar with Diaz's desperate engagements on the battle-fields of Mexico, when domestic as well as alien foes were relentlessly crushed, when he led his people to victory and lifted the nation from a state of ruin and degradation to peace and prosperity, restoring it to the respect and confidence of other world powers. While he is just and merciful, he rules with an iron hand. He exhorts his people to be industrious, law-abiding, and to pay their debts. He is in the highest sense of the term a king, but scorns the worldly trappings of the position. He is a man of simple habits and an unblemished private life. He is not a man of wealth, though he could possess millions were he not truly a great man and a great ruler.

CURTIS, WILLIAM E., Ex-Director of the International Bureau of American Republics and Correspondent of the Chicago *Record-Herald:*

NUMBER OF PIECES HANDLED BY THE POST OFFICES IN THE REPUBLIC.

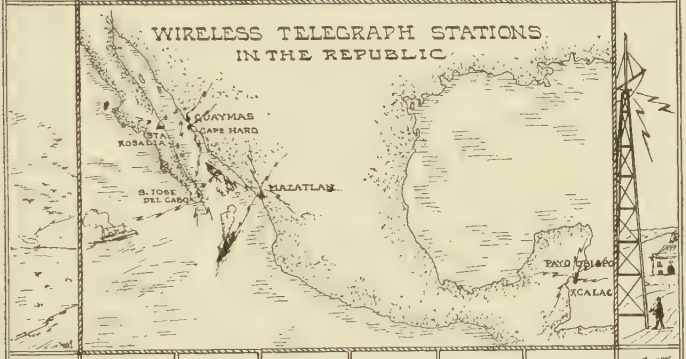
1876	4.703.750
1909	184.000.000

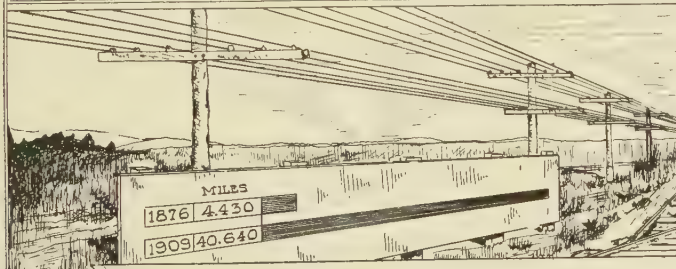
NEW POST OFFICE MEXICO CITY.

NUMBER OF POST OFFICES IN THE REPUBLIC

1876	820
1909	2.964

WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC





MILES

1876	4.430
1909	40.640

EXTENSION OF THE FEDERAL TELEGRAPH LINES

• IN 1876 AND 1909 •

President Diaz is a man of broad views, and during his long and uninterrupted administration has followed a definite policy of progress for the development of the resources of the country and its elevation to the position to which it is entitled by territory, population, and wealth among the nations of the world. The success of his endeavors can be measured most accurately by a comparison of the conditions which existed in Mexico in 1876, when he first assumed control of the Government, and in 1909. When he came into power on December 1, 1876, Mexico was in a state of political, commercial, and industrial chaos; life and property were of comparatively little value and had no protection from the courts or the police. To-day no country is more peaceful or secure for strangers as well as citizens.

General Diaz is now seventy-nine years old and is serving his seventh term as president. He has full consciousness of his power, and his policy is as fixed as the movement of the stars. He has become accustomed to the exercise of power; he is so keen in his perceptions that he can read the motives of the men he has to deal with. Those two qualities are, doubtless, responsible for his success.

DANIEL, JOHN W., United States Senator:

President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico is universally recognized as a great man. His work for his country has been eminently successful and characterized by his great qualities.

DAVIS, HENRY G., Ex-United States Senator:

I count among the most interesting and fortunate

occurrences which have come to me the opportunities I have had for a personal acquaintance with General Diaz. As chairman of the Delegation of the United States to the Second Conference of American Republics, which met in the City of Mexico in the winter of 1901–1902, I met General Diaz both officially and socially, and it was a great pleasure to renew an acquaintance I had made with him a few years previously, when visiting Mexico. General Diaz is a striking and commanding figure in modern times. Probably no country during the past century has felt the influence of any one man more than Mexico has of General Diaz. Although a soldier both by profession and nature, whose military services had been of the highest order, yet his greatest victories have been in the direction of peace and tranquillity. He has brought out of turmoil and unrest a compact and stable nation, and has turned strong and impulsive elements of population from industrial indifference and defiance of law and order to commercial activities and defence of governmental authority. He has quelled the spirit of insurrection among the people, and set an example to the countries of Central and South America. Under his forcible and effective administration of affairs, the people have advanced in all lines of domestic and commercial welfare, and the Republic has been brought to a much higher plane in the sisterhood of nations. His personal character and executive strength have been a guaranty of the safety of foreign capital, the introduction of which has done so much to aid in the development of the country's wonderful mineral and other resources. One may speak of almost any country of the world without any one man predominating

therein, but Mexico and Diaz are inseparable. He has built so well that I am sure the foundation he has laid will endure, and that Mexico will continue under his successors in the march of progress in which he has so masterfully led it. The citizens of Mexico in grateful remembrance will always hold him in the same pride and affection that the people of the United States have for their immortal Washington.

DAY, WILLIAM R., Justice of the United States Supreme Court and Ex-Secretary of State:

The great career of President Diaz has attracted the attention of the world, and demonstrated his superior qualifications in leadership and those great qualities as a statesman which have given to his country a long period of peace and advancement.

Your proposed biography cannot fail to be highly interesting, and give to the reading public a more intimate acquaintance with those eminent traits of character and conduct which have marked the great career of President Diaz.

DENBY, EDWIN, United States Representative:

I find myself somewhat at a loss to give you anything regarding President Diaz, worthy of reproduction in your forthcoming book. I share with the people of the world its great admiration for the long and splendid service of this distinguished Mexican. We of the United States really owe him a debt of gratitude for the great works he has wrought in Mexico and the peace and good order which under his strong but benign rule have prevailed in our sister republic. How much of the present friendly and

satisfactory relations between the two republics may be due to President Diaz, it is impossible to say, but certainly he has contributed greatly to that desirable result. May he have many years of active life ahead of him.

De Young, M. H., Editor of the San Francisco *Chronicle:*

If the object of government is to secure for the people governed peace and prosperity, President Diaz must be regarded as a great ruler. When he assumed the guidance of the affairs of Mexico, it was a turbulent country in which life and property were not always safe; by his wisdom and firmness he succeeded in replacing disorder by order, and through his administrative ability he put the finances of the Republic in such shape that its credit stands very high. To his energetic efforts must be attributed the fact that Mexico, which a quarter of a century ago was in an extremely backward state, is now one of the most progressive nations in the world. His policy of encouraging the investment of foreign capital has given a great impetus to the development of the resources of the Republic. Foreigners who find their way to Mexico, without reference to the country of their origin, are all admirers of Diaz, a fact which speaks volumes. If a man is to be judged by his achievements, and not by finical notions respecting forms of government, Diaz is a great man; so great indeed that his countrymen fear that they cannot find a fit successor to him and therefore, although professed republicans, they do not hesitate to maintain him in office indefinitely. In this way they show

The Monument of Mexican Independence
City of Mexico
(To be inaugurated September, 1910)

their wisdom, even though a ruler for life seems an anomaly in a republic.

DOLLIVER, JONATHAN P., United States Senator:

I believe that General Diaz is recognized throughout the United States as a great constructive statesman and a popular leader, whose policies lie at the base of the development and progress of the Mexican people.

EGAN, MAURICE FRANCIS, United States Minister to Denmark:

From the point of view of statesmanship there can be, it seems, no question that posterity would regard Porfirio Diaz as one of the greatest reconstructors of the world. The difficulties which he met and overcame in his work can only be guessed by even the most intelligent student of the results of that work. The processes by which he united a divided country—processes which often seem drastic and even radical to those who looked at Mexico from the point of view of men already politically educated—can only be analyzed by experts who can realize the tremendous problems he had to meet. With the sympathy of a Lincoln for his people, with the knowledge of a Disraeli of the influences outside his country, with his power of compromise in political crises worthy of a Gladstone, and the insight into the internal needs of his country of a Castelar, he stands before the world to-day as a Cæsar who has resisted all temptation to despotism, and a Napoleon who has learned that the greatest thing in conquest is to know its limits.

ELKINS, S. B., United States Senator:

For twenty-five years or more I have been interested in the people and familiar with the affairs of the Republic of Mexico. During this time I have had opportunities of learning something of President Diaz and his great services to his country.

I knew President Juarez, having met him at El Paso, when he was driven to the frontiers of the Republic by the French and Austrian soldiers. He was highly educated, an able and remarkable man and a great lawyer, but different in many ways from Diaz and not his equal.

I regard Diaz as one of the greatest men of his time. I say this after following his career closely and a limited personal acquaintance made while visiting Mexico. General Diaz is not only a great soldier and leader, but he is a statesman of the highest order. He stands amongst the greatest rulers of the world. During his service as president he has brought order and respect for law out of confusion and chaos. He has given the Republic of Mexico peace and protection to life and property, such as it never before enjoyed. He has promoted the progress and development of the resources of Mexico and started the country on the high-road to progress and prosperity. He has elevated Mexico and her people until she is recognized as one of the leading nations of the world.

Under his administration, the people of Mexico have become law-abiding, law-respecting, and progressive, and are making advance in every direction towards a better civilization. Before Diaz came into power, Mexico was subjected to constant revolutions; there was but little respect for law; life and property

were not secure. These results it may be said are due largely to the genius and ability of this wonderful man.

General Diaz is a man of lofty courage, great executive ability, and fine judgment, modest and retiring, just, generous, and fair. In many ways he reminds me of General Grant.

President Diaz's services to Mexico, Mexican civilization, and Mexican progress in every direction cannot be overestimated.

ENGLEBRIGHT, W. F., United States Representative:

The people of California with feelings of warm friendship have viewed with pleasure the continued prosperity of their mother country, Mexico, and congratulate her on having had for many years such a president as Porfirio Diaz—a most able ruler and one of the great statesmen of the times, whose patriotism, united to his great force of character and his marked executive ability, has brought his country to its great position as one of the great nations of the world.

FISHER, SYDNEY, Minister of Agriculture of Canada:

I regret extremely that I have never had the honor or advantage of meeting the President of Mexico. Personal friends of mine, who have met him, have spoken so highly of him that it is my ambition and intense desire to take the first opportunity of making his personal acquaintance.

His work in Mexico is such as to place him among the great statesmen of the day and of the time. We

in Canada feel the utmost interest in him and his country, it being a portion of our own continent, the conditions there being somewhat similar to the conditions here in Canada.

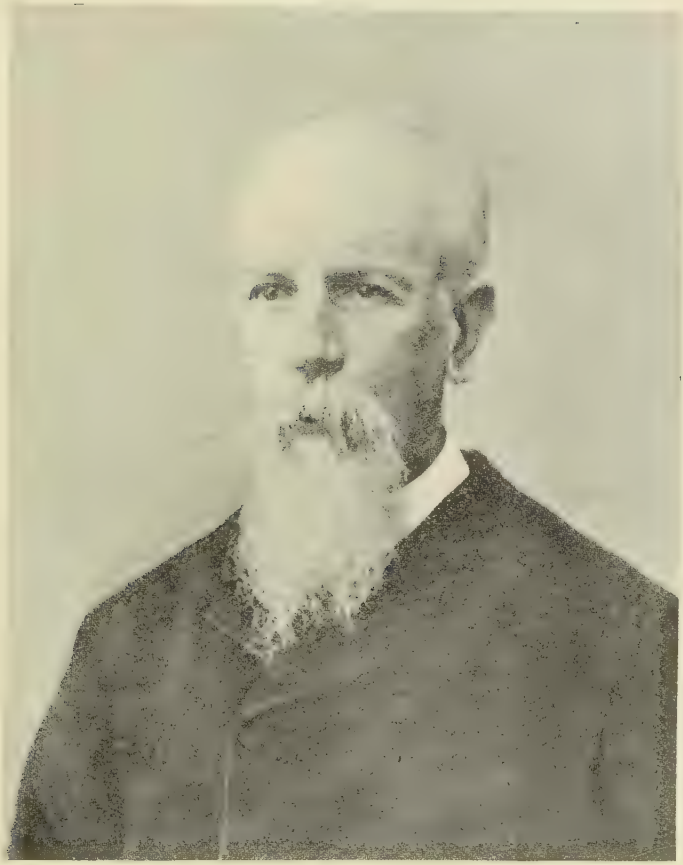
I have had the good fortune to meet a number of leading Mexicans and they have shown a devotion to their country and to their work which explains the great success of their government and their people. I have no doubt that the President has been an example and model for these men in their public careers, and that his influence as a leader has been great all over Mexico.

A work such as you speak of will be eagerly looked for by all the English-speaking world, who look upon your President as one of the greatest men, and of the most interesting career of the present day.

FLINT, FRANK F., United States Senator:

The close commercial and social relations that have existed between the Republic of Mexico and the State of California, for many years, by reason of the proximity of the two countries and the strong racial ties of their people, have enabled the citizens of California to acquire more than the average knowledge of economic and political conditions in Mexico and to become familiar with the high character and remarkable career of that country's President.

Our people have long been great admirers of President Diaz. His acknowledged statesmanship, his patriotism and love for his people, and his devotion to their interests, have won for him universal commendation. All these qualities, together with his courtesy to the people of other countries visiting or



Justino Fernandez
Secretary of Justice

residing in Mexico, and his fairness and liberality in dealing with foreign capital seeking investment in the Republic, have made him almost as popular in the United States, and particularly along the border states and territories, as he is in his own country. His repeated re-election, without serious opposition, demonstrates his popularity there.

Foster, John W., Former Secretary of State and Ex-American Minister to Mexico and Spain:

During my seven years' residence in Mexico, from 1873 to 1880, I became well acquainted with the military career of General Porfirio Diaz, and was brought into intimate official and personal relations with him during his first presidential term. Since that period I have made several visits to Mexico, and have been enabled to note the development and progress of the country under his administration. I have no hesitation in pronouncing him the greatest statesman of the Latin-American states in any period of their history, and one of the most distinguished statesmen of the world in his generation.

His military career during the French Intervention showed him to be a soldier of a high order of ability, and his achievements in defence of his country greatly endeared him to the Mexican people. The value of his services as president, and his ability as a statesman, may be estimated in various ways.

From the establishment of its independence to the time that Diaz assumed the presidency, the history of the country had been one series of disorders and revolutions. Bloodshed and anarchy had been the rule rather than the exception. Immediately after

Diaz came into control of the government, order prevailed throughout the Republic and the life and property of every inhabitant was assured. Speedily the courts were re-established and the civil administration of the law became supreme. In the past thirty-three years, during which Diaz has been practically at the head of the government, there has been no serious disturbance of public order in any part of its territory. Within the same period, the other Latin-American countries, almost without exception, have experienced revolutionary changes of administration, or have been rent by civil war.

In 1876 the public credit of Mexico was at the lowest possible ebb. The public debt had been either repudiated or in default of interest payment for many years. Its government bonds were of no value in the money markets of the world. Its revenues were in a demoralized condition, the budget showing a yearly deficit in the expenses. The first act of the Diaz government was to meet a payment of about $150,000 due the United States. The public treasury was empty, and a resort was had to private bankers to raise the sum, for which twelve per cent. interest was paid. Within a few years the public debt was recognized and refunded at a lower rate of interest, and is now in process of gradual redemption. The government bonds command a higher price abroad than those of any other of the Latin-American states. The annual receipts are greater than the expenditures, notwithstanding the large outlays for the national debt and public improvements.

Mining and agriculture early experienced new life and enlargement, and foreign capital from the

United States and Europe poured into the country for their development. The wonderful railroad construction which has taken place was only made possible through the aid and protection of the Diaz administration.

These are some of the evidences of the statesmanship and beneficence of Porfirio Diaz, which entitles him to a first place among the rulers of his generation.

Fox, Williams C., American Minister to Ecuador:

I consider it as one of the most interesting occasions of my life to have met and known well General Diaz. He is undoubtedly one of the great figures in the world to-day and every item in regard to him, justly recorded, will be a distinct addition to the history of the Western Hemisphere.

Frye, Wm. P., United States Senator and President *pro tempore* of the Senate:

A biography in English of President Diaz is a work well worthy of the best efforts of any writer, and I am glad that you are to undertake it. It cannot but prove of intense interest, not only to the student of history but to the lover of romance. A mere recital of the experiences of this great soldier, patriot, and statesman during his long and eventful life will make a tale as fascinating as a Kipling novel.

Gallinger, J. H., United States Senator:

The progress and development of the Republic of Mexico during the last quarter of a century have

challenged the attention and excited the admiration of the people of the United States, there being a close bond of sympathy and good-will between the two nations. The part that President Diaz has played in the material and moral welfare of his country is well known and recognized, not only in the United States but also in Europe. Nothing exceeding it has been accomplished by any statesman, and the great work that he has done for the elevation and advancement of the people of Mexico will be a theme for future historians. His high character, patriotic achievements, and illustrious career will form a bright page in the world's history, and will be an inspiration and incentive to all lovers of constitutional and representative government.

GARDINER, ASA BIRD, President Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati, and Secretary General of the Order:

In the closing years of the 19th century and begining of the 20th, history presents as one of its very greatest public men in that period, His Excellency Porfirio Diaz, President of the Republic of Mexico.

As a general in the field he was particularly distinguished in restoring the independence of his country.

As President of the Republic, no chief executive in any nation ever exhibited more ability in that capacity, wisdom, prudence, sagacity, or love of peace and order. Guided by this great man, his country has made wonderful advances in all that makes a nation great and respected.

PORT WORKS - MANZANILLO
LIGHTHOUSE BUREAU - VERA CRUZ
ELECTRIC PLANT - PUERTO MEXICO
PORT WORKS - SALINA CRUZ
POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE - VERA CRUZ
WATER FRONT
VERA CRUZ

Some Harbor Works in the Republic

GARFIELD, JAMES R., Ex-Secretary of the Interior, son of the late President Garfield:

With your other American friends, I am glad you are writing in English the biography of President Diaz. I am sure the book will be most interesting.

President Diaz is one of the great figures in the history, not only of Mexico, but of our continent. His statesmanship has always been of the highest constructive type. While maintaining peace and order at home, thus making possible Mexico's progress, he has gained the friendship and respect of other nations. His friendly spirit of co-operation in the consideration of problems affecting Mexico and the United States aided the settlement of many difficult questions, and has laid the foundation for an enduring peace between our countries. In a very striking way this was shown at the Conference, of which he was a member, between the representatives from Mexico, Canada, and the United States, held during last March, for the consideration of the conservation of the natural resources of this continent.

GOODRICH, CASPAR F., Rear-Admiral United States Navy:

It is a great honor to be asked to express my opinion of the character and work of so distinguished a statesman and so wise a ruler as President Diaz.

What his labors have accomplished in general is known to all. Personally, I have witnessed the effects of his consistent and dignified administration of affairs in the universal atmosphere of contentment, in the good order, and in the safety of persons and

property in the ports of Mexico, which it has been my good fortune to visit during my cruises.

President Diaz will go down in history as one of the ablest, broadest minded, and most revered leaders of his era. His reputation can be no exclusive possession of his own country, for all Americans, from the Arctic Ocean to Cape Horn, will insist upon claiming him as of their own.

GRANT, FREDERICK D., Major-General of the United States Army:

My father, General U. S. Grant, was a great personal friend of President Porfirio Diaz, and I have inherited for this distinguished general and statesman the admiration felt by my father for him. I also have had the honor of meeting and being the guest of President Diaz in Mexico.

No man has ever done more for his country than President Diaz, during whose administration Mexico has enjoyed greatest prosperity and made wonderful strides forward.

In fact, words are inadequate to express my admiration for this great and distinguished Mexican.

GREELY, A. W., Major-General of the United States Army (retired):

My first knowledge of Mexico came from a visit to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in 1865, when the country was overrun by a victorious enemy. I was again in this section in 1873, and in 1875 built three hundred miles of telegraph in the American valley, and so became familiar with the prevalent lawless,

revolutionary conditions which so distressed Northern Mexico at that period. Later I visited time and time again not only the whole frontier, from California to Texas, but also journeyed to the City of Mexico by one route and returned by another. I have, as a university professor, studied the development of the country, the progress of its institutions, and the improvements in the status of its people.

I have thus followed the growth of the Mexican states from revolutionary and unsettled conditions into their present proud position of a nation, composed of united, thriving, and well governed states. Great as has been the development of the resources of Mexico, they have been paralleled by its progress in education, arts, and sciences, and by its adoption and application of industrial and transportation facilities. To me, yet greater has been the transition to habits of peace and of amenability to law, whereby rights of person, property, and life have been wonderfully improved and generally conserved.

These astounding changes have, in my opinion, been wrought through the energy, wisdom, genius, and administrative ability of President Porfirio Diaz, whose career I have followed with increasing surprise and admiration from decade to decade. President Diaz was absent when I visited the City of Mexico, and so my judgment is not warped by personal relations.

My opinion is wholly based on study, observation, and reflection, which cause me to consider Porfirio Diaz as one of the great men of the past half-century. I honor him as a man, who has raised up Mexico, made it a great nation, instituted peace and law, and

above all made possible the progress of his fellow-countrymen.

HADLEY, ARTHUR T., President of Yale University:

The work of President Diaz has been so great, and the existing position and prosperity of Mexico is such a monument to his ability, that any words of commendation which I might attempt to offer would seem commonplace and superfluous.

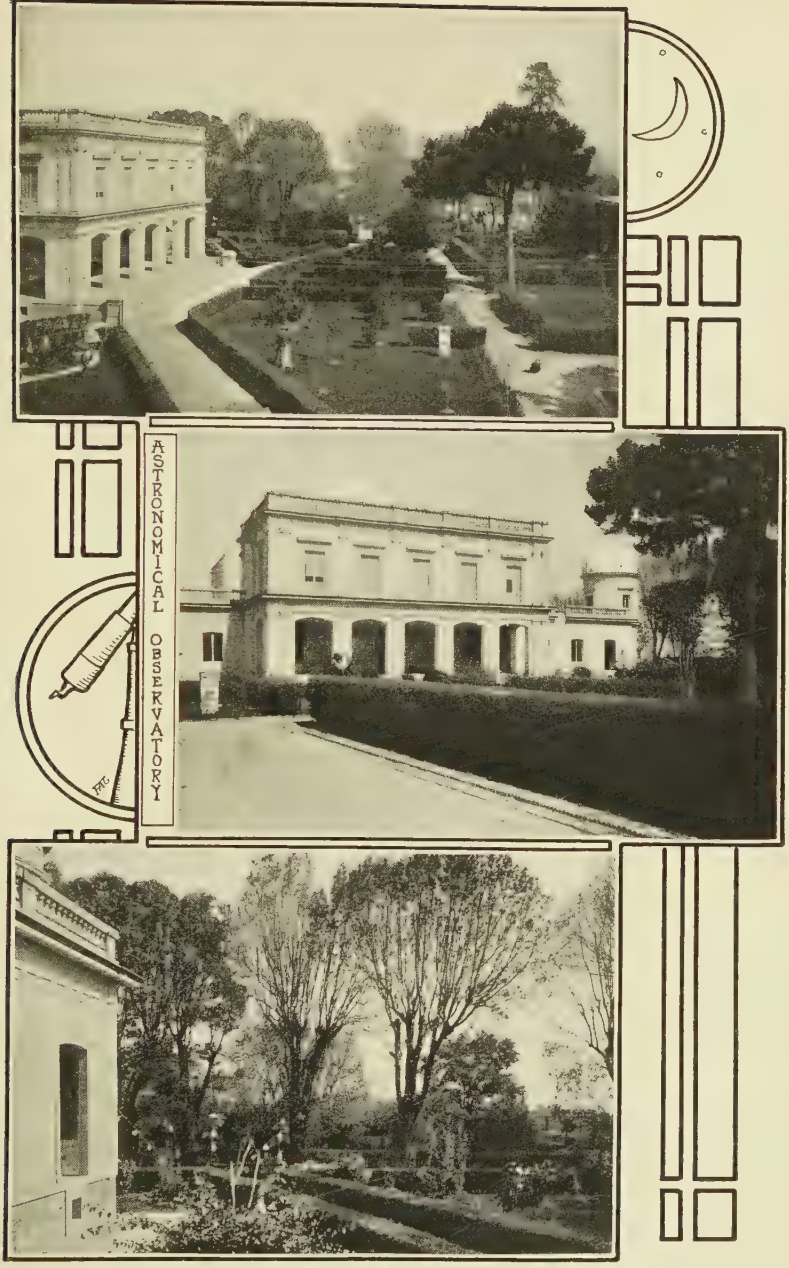
HAY, M. E., Governor of the State of Washington:

I consider President Diaz one of the truly great men of this age. The great work he has done for his country and his people ranks him abreast with Washington, Hamilton, and Jefferson of our own country. His management of the affairs of Mexico has been safe and conservative and yet as progressive as could be with safety to the nation.

I had the pleasure of spending a few weeks in the Republic some five years ago, and was greatly impressed with the love, affection, and respect the people of that country have for their President. Seemingly, all classes are commencing to see what a great work President Diaz has done for their nation.

HAYES, E. A., United States Representative:

I regard President Diaz of Mexico as among the greatest of the constructive statesmen of this age. That he has accomplished wonders for Mexico must be the opinion of all who are at all familiar with its



Astronomical Observatory

Near City of Mexico

recent history. He is a world-wide character, and must be counted among the greatest men of this age.

HILL, DAVID J., American Ambassador to Germany:

I have never had the honor to make the personal acquaintance of President Porfirio Diaz, and I know him only through the reports of his public life in the administration of his high office during many years as president of the Republic. I am, therefore, able only to express my great admiration for the internal policies which have so effectively promoted the development of Mexico socially, economically, and in all that makes progress in the growth of civilization, and also my appreciation of the wisdom, moderation, and spirit of friendliness with which the Republic has managed its foreign relations, and above all the manifest friendliness toward the United States, whose people I think are happy in witnessing the prosperity and development of Mexico.

HILL, JAMES J., of the Great Northern Railway Company:

For many years prior to the advent of Porfirio Diaz to the presidency of the Republic of Mexico, the various states of that country seemed to lack co-operation, growing out of efforts and ambitions of local politicians. The administration of President Diaz has unified the Mexican nation and greatly strengthened its position among the nations. His work as the head of the Mexican Republic during his long administration of its affairs has advanced

his native country more than the work of any other ten of her sons.

HOWRY, CHARLES, Judge of the United States Court of Claims:

Porfirio Diaz is generally regarded by the American people, not only as a very able administrator of public affairs, but as a great man. That he is powerful, his long tenure in office proves and goes without saying. That he is masterful, is demonstrated by the success which has attended his efforts to rule his country in peace and without disorder. That he is wise and justly entitled to be called one of the foremost men of his time is acknowledged by those familiar with the progress of his country in everything that makes for social life and civilization.

Porfirio Diaz has proven his right to govern. Without knowledge of the means employed for the perpetuation of his power, or that these means have been at all inconsistent with the rights and free will of his countrymen, I should say that his place in history is secure as a ruler. But more than that. During his administration, Mexico has prospered as never before and made rapid strides among the republics of the Western Hemisphere to a conspicuous place in the family of nations.

JORDAN, DAVID STARR, President of the Leland Stanford, Junior, University:

I regard President Diaz as one of the ablest and most efficient rulers in any country within the last

century. He has had clearly in mind the possibilities of Mexico, and has brought it from a position of scattered and warring tribes, to be the beginning of a great nation. I once said to President Diaz that he had made of Mexico "una gran nación." "No," he said, "el germinillo de una gran nación"; but the little germ is already on the way to fullest development, and one cannot speak too highly of the strength of mind and persistent devotion of President Diaz.

KAHN, JULIUS, United States Representative:

I am glad to learn you are writing the biography of President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico, as I consider him one of the greatest men of the nineteenth century. He has given his country stable government and has brought to Mexico an era of prosperity, such as was never known in all the years of her history. He has cemented the bonds of friendship between the United States and Mexico, and has done much to promote industrial relations between the manufacturers and producers of the two countries. He will rank in history as one of the wise statesmen of the world, and I trust he will be spared many years to continue his work of advancement.

I believe the life of such a man must be an inspiration to the youth of all countries, and I wish you every success in your undertaking.

LANDIS, C. B., Ex-United States Representative:

We speak the name of Mexico, and think of Diaz. In the United States, for many years, the man and the country have been one and inseparable. Diaz is

Mexico and Mexico is Diaz. As long as language is spoken and history written, he will be included among the world's great men. In the fullest meaning of the term his career has been that of "a nation builder."

LANE, FRANKLIN K., of the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States:

After a visit to Mexico a few years since, I delivered an address upon Mexico and its president, in which I said: "President Diaz is one of the two or three great men of our time. Neither the President of the United States nor any monarch in Europe has the personal power that the President of Mexico exercises. His rise to the presidency is not remarkable, but his ability to sustain himself in that position for nearly thirty years is the achievement of nothing less than genius. He is the most remarkable man who has risen in all Spanish America during nearly four centuries of occupancy. I found him respected, admired, and loved. His people are proud of him and personally attached to him,—and well they might be, for his policy has been national, his impulse is patriotic, and the history of his regime is one of tranquillity and unprecedented prosperity."

I can add no more to this expression of opinion, nor would I take one word from it to-day.

LODGE, H. C., United States Senator:

To do justice to such a career as that of President Diaz in a few words would be impossible. He is one of the remarkable men of our time and the great work which he has done for the peace and prosperity

President Diaz

of Mexico constitutes an enduring monument. You may rest assured that nowhere is his work more appreciated than in the United States. I had the pleasure of meeting President Diaz many years ago in Boston and I well remember the great impression he made upon me as a man of the most exceptional force and ability.

Loomis, Francis B., United States Commissioner to the Tokio Exposition and Ex-Assistant Secretary of State:

It was my good fortune to be in Mexico when Mr. Root, as Secretary of State, visited that country in 1907 and to participate as a guest in the series of memorable and sumptuous entertainments given in his honor.

I met President Diaz many times, and upon one occasion had the honor of a long interview with him, lasting quite an hour and a half. Our talk was discursive, covering a wide range of topics, but centered mainly on international politics and practical questions of economic policy bearing upon the material development of Mexico and the United States. I have talked at some length with several of the conspicuous "rulers of the world," but I have never known the head of a great nation who conveyed to his listener a more convincing sense of virile character, of moral, mental, and physical fitness than did President Diaz. He explains himself and his wonderful career, and after half an hour's talk with this uncommon man one ceases to marvel at the versatility and importance of his achievements. He is the personification of Efficiency. At seventy-eight he has the

resilliency, the flexibility, the endurance, and the psychic power of a forceful man of forty-five.

Early in life General Diaz learned, like the late President McKinley, that the man who can master himself is greater than one who can take a city. President Diaz is the ruler of himself,—a model of self-control. The great qualities of Porfirio Diaz are moral qualities.

It now seems probable that historians will be disposed to agree that prior to this century the New World has produced no more competent ruler than General Diaz. Those who have really adequate knowledge of the difficulties and of the magnitude of the task which has confronted him for nearly twenty-five years will readily understand why just and thorough students will be inclined to assign President Diaz a very lofty place in the chronicles of his time.

It is true that General Diaz is a successful soldier: it is true that he is a remarkable organizer: it is true that he has turned an impoverished, feeble, and slightly amalgamated federation into a closely knitted, progressive, and prosperous republic—but his real victory, the resplendent and crowning triumph of his career, is to be found in the substantial fact that throughout the length and breadth of Mexico he has instilled into the hearts, minds, and lives of the people an earnest abiding desire for peace and genuine loyalty to law.

President Diaz seeks to educate his people in patriotism and in civic righteousness. He strives to indoctrinate them with high and imperishable principles. In a large measure he has already uplifted and enlightened them. When he passes away much of the good that he has wrought will remain, for it is

not small or specious in quality, or in any sense ephemeral.

I believe him to be one of the most useful men the world has known.

LOW, SETH, Ex-President of Columbia University and Ex-Mayor of New York City:

The career of President Diaz marks him as a man of commanding ability. Under his long administration as President of the United States of Mexico, that country has made steady and remarkable progress. Good order has been maintained and the currency and finances of the country have been placed upon a sound basis. As a result, the great natural resources of the country have been made available as never before, so that Mexico has enjoyed under the administration of this remarkable man a greater degree of prosperity than ever. The relations of Mexico and the United States have never been more friendly than during the incumbency of President Diaz. The two countries gave to The Hague Tribunal the opportunity of exercising its functions for the first time in the settlement of an international dispute. So that externally, as well as internally, President Diaz has led his country successfully along the paths of peace. History will accord to him a distinct place among the great administrators of the American Continent.

LYMAN, HART, of the *New York Tribune:*

The *Tribune* has often expressed its admiration of the far-sighted wisdom with which President Diaz has

for many years directed the Government of Mexico. It seems as if the ancient dictum that no man is necessary were refuted in his case.

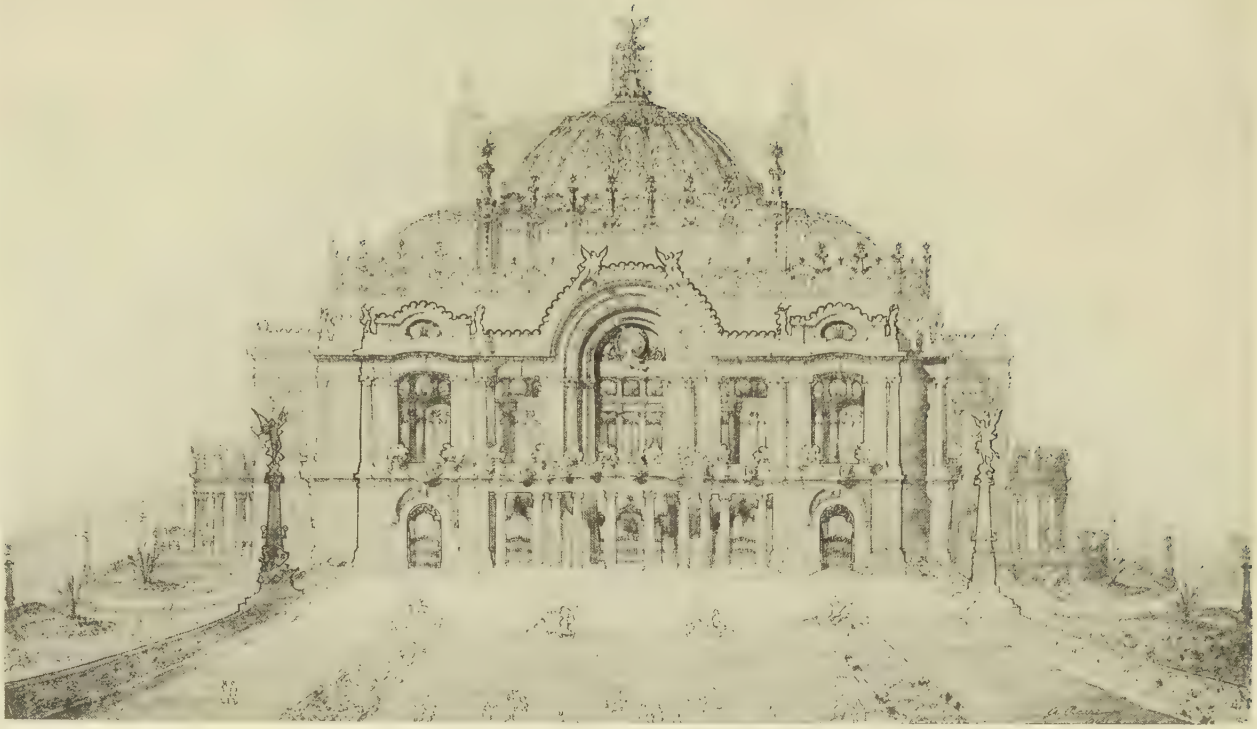
MacArthur, Arthur, Lieutenant-General, United States Army (retired):

The fulfilment of your purpose to publish in English a biography of President Diaz will be a most fortunate event, for the large audience that is restricted to that language as its only literary medium. By this means precise knowledge will be imparted to the English speaking world of the great man, through whose flexible and master-mind, the ideals and aspirations of the Mexican people have found adequate expression.

Endowed with military and political perceptions of lucidity and range, Diaz has at critical moments been enabled to contribute all of his great abilities to the good government and welfare of his country. Enriched with rare gifts of understanding, rendered acute and comprehensive by observation and study, he has thus impressed himself indelibly upon the political life of Mexico, and upon the intellectual life of the age.

Hundreds of very great men have passed through the world without leaving any visible trace of their existence. Enlarged scope of thought in respect of national interests, broad conceptions in behalf of patriotic purposes, therefore, are not in themselves always sufficient to impress contemporaries.

Fortunately, in this instance the right man synchronized with the right moment, and as a consequence, Mexico is now one of the seminating powers



National Opera House—Front View
City of Mexico
(In Construction)

of the earth: and Diaz himself must be placed in the small class of constructive workers of the nineteenth century which embraces Cavour, Lincoln, Bismarck, and Ito.

Discreet statesman, sagacious diplomat, patient administrator, loyal soldier, and patriotic citizen, long may he live to inspire the best aspirations of his own country and to enjoy the respect of mankind.

MACFARLAND, H. B. F., President of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

President Diaz deserves his unique distinction among the rulers of nations. No one has had a more difficult task; no one has discharged his duty more efficiently; no one has had more appreciation of his achievements; no one has had greater affection and admiration from his own people or more respect and regard from those of other countries. We of the United States, and especially we who live in the National Capitol, share in a peculiar degree the general sentiments of the world respecting President Diaz, because of all that he has done to strengthen the close and friendly relations between the United States of Mexico and the United States of America. We realize that he is not only one of the greatest of men but one of the best of friends. We congratulate Mexico that he is still willing to direct her affairs, and wish for him continued health, and even greater success.

MAGOON, CHARLES E., former Provisional Governor of Cuba:

That the demand creates the supply, is an aphorism that, while it may hold good in commercial matters,

is not always borne out in the affairs of state. It is true that Russia had its Peter the Great, and Germany its Frederick Barbarossa, but they were conquerors rather than statesmen, and even Switzerland with her William Tell presented an instance of successful rebellion much more than the evolution of a power that had its victories in peace as well as war.

The combination of the qualities of the soldier and the statesman, moreover, seems to be the distinct product of American soil. The United States found it in her hour of need, in George Washington and subsequently in Abraham Lincoln, while later still, a most striking example is to be found in President Diaz, the present President of Mexico.

What that Republic owes to him cannot be overestimated. For more than twenty-seven years he has governed Mexico with a strength and power hitherto unknown under a democratic form of government, and yet with the wisdom that finds its vindication in a march of improvements which is unequalled in the histories of nations.

He found Mexico bankrupt, divided against itself, infested with bandits, and a victim of all sorts of maladministration and corruption. Under his watchful eye millions upon millions of dollars have been honestly expended on harbor improvements, drainage works, and engineering projects; not the least of which was the boring of a tunnel through the Eastern mountains, thus draining the valley of Mexico into the sea, through a system of canals and sewers that cost more than twelve millions of dollars.

When General Diaz first assumed control, there were only two small railroad lines; one connecting the capital with Vera Cruz, the other connecting it with

Queretaro. At the present day there are more than 15,000 miles of railroad. So, too, with the mail service: in the primitive time it was dependent on stage-coaches, which were frequently held up and robbed, while now there is a safe and rapid service with twenty-nine hundred post-offices, and, in addition, there are upwards of forty-five thousand miles of telegraph wires in operation.

Meanwhile he has been steadily reducing the public debt, putting the national finances on a gold basis, and managing the business affairs of the country with such sound monetary ability, that the nation has a surplus of seventy-two million dollars in the Treasury.

What the debt of the whole world is to this wonderful leader, to his magnetic personality, to his profound statesmanship and his superb military genius, cannot be computed. It was from his example and achievements that the seed of progressive improvement was sown in the sister republics, until by the action of the Pan-American alliance it can be safely said that Central and South America have been remodelled and regenerated.

As to the United States, the proximity of Mexico in its present state has proved to be an unmixed and unchallenged blessing. The opportunities for the employment of labor, the openings for the investment of capital, the extension of new interests, have added to the general prosperity of the nation while the confidence reposed in the stability of Mexican affairs, under the present administration, has fostered and increased it.

The niche of President Diaz in the temple of fame is an assured position. To the peon, to whose interest his life has been devoted, he is already more of a god

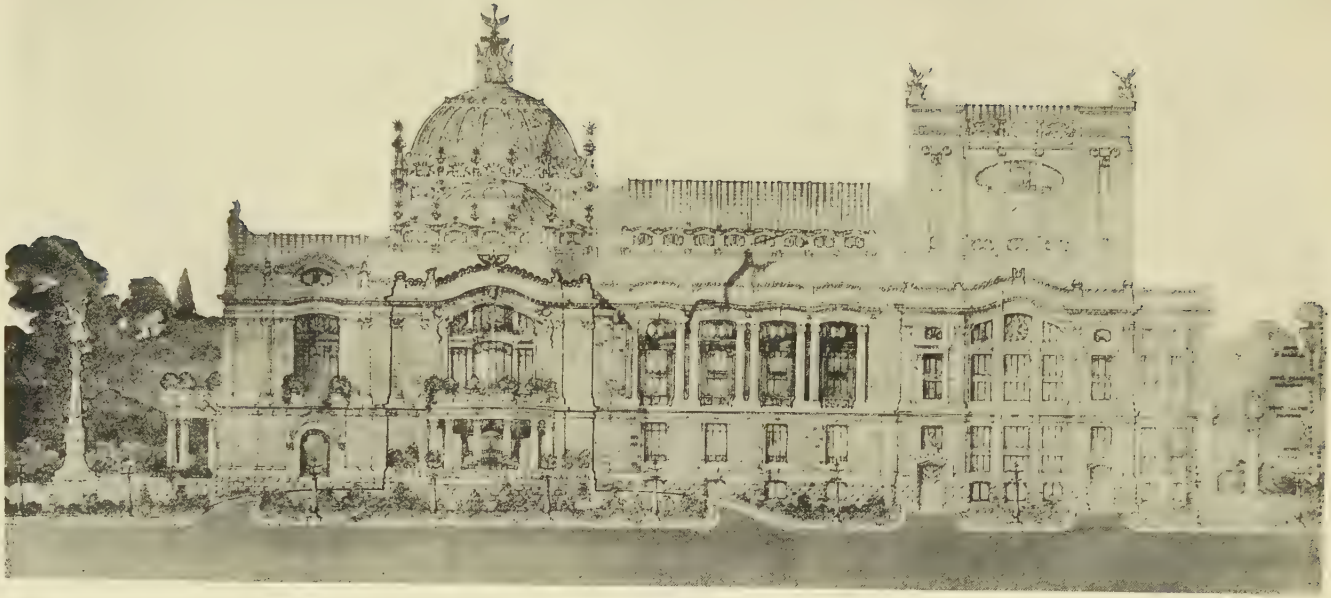
than a man, and while republics are proverbially ungrateful, yet surely educated Mexico can never cease to honor and admire the genius, whose hand, though it has been of iron in its inflexibility for the public weal, has yet been gloved with the velvet of justice and honor.

MARCIL, CHARLES, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada:

I regret that I have not the time at my disposal to give you a full appreciation of President Diaz of Mexico, as I should like. I may say, however, that his name has been so familiar to us here in Canada for the last forty years that we rarely ever mention Mexico without an allusion to its Great Citizen. He is uncontestedly one of the great men of the American Continent and deserves well all the honours that have been heaped upon him. A country and a democracy that can produce such a man must necessarily have a great future in store for it. The relations between Canada and Mexico are becoming more important every day and we know that President Diaz has not been a stranger to this. For this we are grateful and all Canadians will join in wishing him long life in the interest of his country.

MCCLUNG, LEE, Treasurer of the United States:

One of the marvels of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth has been the substantial growth and development of our neighboring republic, Mexico. Conditions in that republic, at the time of accession to the chief executorship of Porfirio Diaz, were in such a chaotic state that it



National Opera House—Side View
(In Construction)

required a man of iron nerve and steady hand to govern the country's affairs, and such demand met fulfilment in the person of the new ruler. Since that time Mexico's progress has been not only sure, but rapid, and the credit due President Diaz for the wonderful development and substantial prosperity of our sister republic can hardly be overestimated. He has known his people, has realized their points of weakness as well as their points of strength, and has adapted himself accordingly. The recent meeting between President Taft and President Diaz at El Paso was a fitting expression of the appreciation and cordial good feeling that each republic thus represented entertained for the other.

McCreery, Fenton R., Ex-Secretary to the American Legation in Mexico and American Minister to Santo Domingo:

Every American at home and abroad should honor the name of Porfirio Diaz, the Chief Executive of Mexico, who has fostered development, furthered advancement, practised and encouraged industry, until he is universally recognized as the Master Builder of a Mighty Commonwealth.

McGee, W. J., Secretary of the United States Inland Waterways Commission:

While Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, I had occasion to visit the Republic of Mexico repeatedly, and on one occasion to spend some time in the City of Mexico, where I had the honor of meeting His Excellency, Porfirio Diaz. Both as a visitor to his city and country and

as an anthropologist I had occasion to form opinions concerning your great President, which opinions have more than once been expressed in a public way.

After observing the development of the Republic of Mexico under his leadership, I felt compelled a decade ago to class President Diaz as in the front rank among world leaders. To my mind the actual world leaders of to-day form a small class, including Diaz and Roosevelt of the Western Hemisphere, and the German and Japanese Emperors of the Eastern Hemisphere; while those of past times comprise Washington, Cromwell, Napoleon (whose leadership was out of the main line of human progress, and hence futile), Peter the Great, Julius Cæsar, Alexander the Great, and perhaps a dozen others. Not only in this class but well forward within it do I rank Diaz; for he, within half of his own lifetime and despite the ever-increasing complexity of international relations and other human affairs, took virtually raw material and made of it a great nation.

May I note a coincidence which greatly impresses me and which you must have observed with interest: *i. e.*, the striking physical similarity between Porfirio Diaz and Theodore Roosevelt? They must be almost alike in stature; and they are quite alike in impressing beholders as of heroic height, though they are hardly above the average. In form and expression of face, in shape of head, in manner of movement, in the appearance of unlimited reserved strength, in physical vigor and intellectual brightness, they might be twins. Seldom have I seen two men not akin so much alike; never when the two were of distinct ethnic stock. Allowing for the difference in age, they are as if cast in the same mould.

METCALF, VICTOR H., Ex-Secretary of the Navy of the United States:

President Diaz is one of the most remarkable and striking figures of modern times. He has always been an inspiration to the Mexican people, and it is due to his broad statesmanship, his elevated character, his high integrity, and his thorough knowledge of his country and its resources that Mexico owes her present position among the World powers.

MILLS, ANSON, Brigadier-General, United States Army (retired):

I am glad to learn that you are writing in English a biographical history of President Diaz, for in the first place, I do not believe that there is a person whose biography will be more interesting to the English-speaking race; in the second place, I know of no one better able to write such a history than yourself.

President Diaz has been to his people what our General Grant was to ours, each having brought his country out of comparative chaos to a condition of good order and good government.

I feel gratified to make the above statement for the reason that as a boy, in 1858–9, I went to the border, settling on the Rio Grande at El Paso, and have been more or less connected with the Mexican people ever since, and know that the subject of your biography has conferred upon his people as great a betterment in government as any man of modern times.

MONEY, HERNANDO D., United States Senator:

The character and career of Señor Porfirio Diaz will go down in history as one of the most remarkable of the great men of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I have not the good fortune to be personally acquainted with this distinguished man, but have greatly admired him from my slight knowledge of his life. To accomplish what he has done proves that he is gifted with genius, common sense, and tact which have enabled him, moved by a high spirit of patriotism, to harmonize conflicting elements among his countrymen and guide their destinies peacefully, honorably, and prosperously for so long a time. To his contemporaries his figure looks large: to later generations, it will appear of heroic size. The great Mexican Republic is to be congratulated on so wise, so good, and so successful an Executive.

MORRIS, MARTIN F., Ex-Justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia.

If successful accomplishment, combined with beneficial result, be the test of true greatness, no greater or abler man than Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico, has arisen within the last one hundred years. Porfirio Diaz found Mexico rent by factions; he has made it a great, prosperous, and united Republic: he has placed it in the front ranks of civilization. And all that he has done has redounded, not to his own benefit, but to the benefit of a peaceful and prosperous and happy people.

Olegario Molina
Secretary of Public Promotion

MORTON, LEVI P., Ex-Vice-President of the United States:

Without any personal acquaintance, I can only say that President Diaz, in point of character and career, will, in my opinion, rank in history with Washington and Lincoln as the greatest Presidents in Mexico and the United States.

NEEDHAM, CHARLES W., President of the George Washington University:

The life and career of President Porfirio Diaz has been so eventful and brilliant, and so full of patriotic service to his country, that it is difficult to speak appreciatively of it in a few lines. There are a few men that come out of the centuries who seem to be capable of filling both military and civic positions with wonderful efficiency, although it would seem that the disposition and talents required for these two lines of service are so different that both services could hardly be rendered by one man. President Diaz's military career is one which shows that he has power to command and to direct military operations with success. As the Chief Executive, where many complex activities make the greatness of a nation, he has shown a breadth of sound knowledge, a practical statesmanship and patriotism that can hardly be excelled. His name will always rest among the very few in the world's history who have served their country in peace and war as great generals and executive officers with marked success and unselfish patriotism.

NORRIS, EDWIN L., Governor of the State of Montana:

I have for many years followed the career of President Porfirio Diaz with the keenest interest and highest admiration.

His acts demonstrate that he has loved his nation and her people and their progress shows that he has served them faithfully and well.

His brilliant statesmanship, splendid ability, and patriotic performance of duty mark him as one of the truly great men of the age.

NOYES, THEODORE W., Editor of the *Evening Star* of Washington, D. C.:

I think that President Diaz is one of the world's great leaders and rulers of men. I met him in 1896 when I visited Mexico, and in a letter printed in the *Star* after my return to Washington, I said:

"There was a time when heavy investments of American capital in Mexico would have been viewed as impossibilities, rendered such by local hostility towards foreigners, and especially Americans, and by the lack of a settled, organized government to repress lawlessness and to guarantee security to invested capital. That stage in the country's history is happily passed. Diaz, one of the world's great men, rules the Republic with a strong yet tactful hand. He is at once a soldier and a diplomatist. He welcomes the foreigner without losing his hold upon his countrymen. He has checked the revolutionary tendencies of Mexico, formerly a sort of Ferris wheel among nations, notable for the magnifi-

cent impressiveness of its periodical revolutions. The army is back of him, and through the railroad and accompanying telegraph which his policy has sent everywhere in Mexico he can, as I have already suggested, drop soldiers upon the backs of conspirators as soon as they have fairly begun to conspire. He has, to a great extent, broken up the elements which threaten revolt, conciliating or crushing possible conspirators.

"He gives the impression of a man of great force, but with powers under perfect restraint. He seems what he is generally considered to be, 'The right man in the right place.'"

PAGE, CARROLL S., United States Senator:

I note with gratification that you are engaged in the preparation of a biography of President Diaz, and heartily commend a purpose at once so laudable and so patriotic.

President Diaz is one of the most striking figures in modern history. For more than a generation he has stamped his influence upon the national life of our sister Republic on the south to a most unusual degree. In him she saw and realized the hope of autonomy.

The greatest general in Mexican history, his genius brought peace to a troubled nation. A far-seeing and patriotic statesman, he created and has maintained for Mexico a financial credit of which her people may well be proud. His broad-minded philanthropy has gained for his administration of Mexican affairs the respect of the civilized world, and, by a private life as wholesome as that adminis-

tration has been pure, he has endeared himself to those thoughtful and patriotic men everywhere who are working and praying for the uplift of humanity.

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to offer an appreciative tribute to a man so noble and to a career so notable.

PARKER, ALTON B., Judge, Democratic Candidate for the Presidency in 1904:

Our people will welcome the biography of President Diaz, and will receive it with entire confidence in its accuracy because written by you.

During his incumbency of the office of president he has rendered to the people of Mexico a greater service than it has been permitted any other statesmen in the world to contribute to his country during the same period. Mexico sorrily needed a constructive statesman and found one without peer in Porfirio Diaz.

Rejoicing as we do in his success, and in Mexico's good fortune, we will follow with exceeding interest the tale of his life work for the people he loves so dearly and serves so brilliantly.

PERKINS, GEORGE C., United States Senator:

I am more than glad to here indicate my high respect for the ability, honesty, and patriotism of that great man, President Diaz. Under his administration of affairs in Mexico, that country has, I have had reason to learn through business and other connections, had vigorous and able administration of good laws, which have made life, liberty, and property

Department of Communications and Public Works
City of Mexico

as safe there as in the United States. In thus inaugurating and maintaining a system of government under which our Sister Republic has thriven and progressed as never before in its history, President Diaz has performed a work in the interest of general civilization and advancement, as well as for the immediate benefit of the Mexican people. His great work is especially recognized by the United States by reason of the rapid advancement of that great Republic which adjoins us on the south, whose peace and prosperity are nearly as great concern to us as our own, through the intimate commercial and social relations which exist between us. No one could have done the great work better than President Diaz: probably there is no one who could have done it so well. The result of his long and successful public career is the establishment of relations of the most friendly character between his country and our own, and the opening up to business enterprise a land which presents opportunities that can scarcely be found in other parts of the world. I am very glad indeed to express my appreciation of the work of President Diaz and my admiration of his character.

PINCHOT, GIFFORD, Chief of the Forestry Service of the United States:

In brief, the impression made upon me by President Diaz when I saw him last winter was of a man of great natural force, kindliness, courage, and purpose, keen to do for his people the best that could be done for them; sensitive to the opinion of the civilized world; and carrying forward the work that lay ahead of him with foresight and great intel-

ligence, and a complete knowledge of the materials with which he is compelled to work. I thought him a great man doing a great work, with the aid of a most unusual physical and mental equipment. Until I saw him I had never seen a man of his age, in whom vigor seemed to be so complete, and purpose so undimmed. He seems to me to have done more for his people than any other ruler now living has done for any nation.

Post, Regis H., Governor of Porto Rico:

Let me express the deep admiration which I think every one feels for President Diaz—a man who has sacrificed so much for his country, and has made it one of the foremost nations of the world.

Rodgers, James L., American Consul General at Havana, Cuba:

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are about to publish a biography of the distinguished and illustrious President of the United States of Mexico, Porfirio Diaz. Of all the men who have contributed great and everlasting good, not only to their people but also to those of the world at large, it has always seemed to me that President Diaz is among the foremost in history. Under difficult conditions he welded a people into a national unity which has stood the test of time, which is constantly expanding in all ways for the common good, and which will ever remain as an imperishable memorial testifying to the genius, the patriotism, and the character of its creator.

Ryan, Thomas, Ex-American Minister to Mexico,

United States Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes:

During the four years I had the honor to represent my country at the Mexican capital, my official and personal relations with the Mexican President were such as enabled me to form very definite opinions of his character, abilities, and motives as man and President, and I was profoundly impressed that his statecraft and patriotism entitled him to be classed with the greatest and best rulers of his time.

Always delightfully dignified, frank, courteous, and impressively instructive in his intercourse with men, it was in his home life and in his neighborly relations that he daily revealed the qualities of character that reflected in a remarkable degree nobility of manhood.

It is hard to conceive of more adverse and embarrassing conditions than those under which President Diaz entered upon his marvellous reign of power more than thirty years ago. The public affairs of Mexico had been reeking with corruption more than half a century; during that period the people had been chiefly occupied with the horrors of revolution and the ways of lawlessness; a powerful banditti, well mounted, thoroughly equipped, and skilfully commanded, swarmed in the mountains from which they, at will, swooped down upon and looted the valleys, the mines, the haciendas, the towns, and the highways, with friends everywhere to furnish them information and protection.

There is ample reason to believe that it was his whole ambition to establish a stability and character of government that would guarantee to his country-

men, irrespective of class or condition, under salutary laws and wholesome administration, absolute enjoyment of the rights of citizenship, full security of life, limb, and property, and command the respect and confidence of all nations.

To this mighty problem he at once dedicated all his powers and all his genius, with the result that the people of Mexico were long since diverted from the ways of disorder and for many years have been devoted to the pursuits of peace; the once formidable and terrible banditti disappeared in the earlier years of his administration; life and property are everywhere secure; corruption in public affairs is minimized to conditions no worse than prevail in other civilized and well governed countries; foreign capital by the millions has been for a considerable period annually pouring into the country and employed in development; all industries are active and prosperous; a network of railroads and telegraph lines covers all sections and her harbors are filled with the vessels and commerce of the world.

In the Mexico of to-day Porfirio Diaz has attained to the very fulness of his noble ambition; in the hearts of his people his great name will be forever sacredly cherished and the pages of immortal history will record his name high among the world's great and good rulers, whose fame will grow brighter and brighter with passing time.

SANFORD, EDWARD T., Judge of the United States District Court at Knoxville, Tenn., and ex-Assistant Attorney-General of the United States:

I regret to say that I have not an intimate acquaint-

Leandro Fernandez
Secretary of Communications and Public Works

ance with the facts of President Diaz's career, but from my general knowledge on the subject I have regarded him as a statesman of the greatest ability and extraordinary force of intellect and of will, possessing in a remarkable degree the qualities of constructive statesmanship which have enabled him to accomplish such splendid results in the unification, development, and upbuilding of Mexico.

Schley, W. S., Admiral of the United States Navy (retired):

I am glad to add my opinion to that of others respecting your great President Diaz, whom I regard as one of the great men of his time. His government of your splendid country has been most wise, most beneficial to his people, and the peace, prosperity, and happiness under his continued selection by the people has placed his name and fame high on the roll of distinguished rulers for all time. Few men have done so much for their country, and none could have done more than Porfirio Diaz for Mexico.

Scott, Nathan B., United States Senator:

I have met President Diaz personally and esteem him very highly. I think he is one of the great men of Mexico and one of the great men of the day. Under his administration Mexico has advanced rapidly in the material development of her vast resources. Peace and quiet have been maintained and his life has been a most useful one.

Sherman, J. S., Vice-President of the United States:

President Diaz is a statesman of progress; a master

of diplomacy; an executive of the higher type; a man of whom any country would be proud and who is in thorough touch with advanced ideals of government and civilization. His long and, it is to be hoped, continued administration of the affairs of Mexico carries with it the confidence of nations in its uprightness, strength, and purity.

SIFTON, CLIFFORD, Ex-Minister of the Interior of Canada:

President Diaz is unquestionably one of the greatest men of the age.

He has given Mexico a strong, orderly, and efficient administration. He has made life and property safe, he has promoted laws under which the Mexican people have been enabled to peacefully develop the great natural resources of the country and achieve a high degree of domestic comfort and prosperity.

Under his administration Mexico has become a modern and progressive country commanding the respect and confidence of the world.

The highest testimony that can be paid to President Diaz is the hope which is everywhere expressed by those interested in the future of Mexico that the future government of the country may be carried on with the same wisdom and far-sighted statesmanship which is displayed at present.

SIMMONS, J. EDWARD, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York:

I am honored by your request for a few lines to be included in your biography of President Diaz. I congratulate you on the brilliant opportunity which

such a task presents. You have an inspiring subject: and I have no doubt that you will produce a biography worthy of your theme, and one that will remain through the coming years a standard authority on one of the most important lives in the development of the North American Continent.

Elihu Root has so completely summed up the life and character of Porfirio Diaz, that it is difficult to add anything to his splendid pen portrait of him as "one of the greatest men to be held up for the hero worship of mankind."

You will perhaps recall that, in introducing you to the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York at its annual banquet held November 19, 1908, I quoted from Senator Root's eulogy of President Diaz, and the most I can do now is to refer to that as the best expression of American opinion regarding the head of your government.

The high estimate that the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, of which I am president, puts upon his achievements was shown when, at that banquet, it placed the portrait of Diaz beside that of Washington. Like Washington, Diaz has been a nation builder: and he has laid the foundations of Mexican order and credit and liberty so deep and strong, that they will endure for ages after his life work is ended. The confidence of the citizens of the United States in him has been signally demonstrated by the large investments made by our capitalists in Mexico. The magnitude of his achievements can be adequately measured, only when the immense difficulties which he had to overcome are taken into account.

May your biography serve to keep ever clear the memory of his dauntless courage, his genius

for leadership, and his vast work in reconstructing a nation, so that through the coming centuries mankind can enjoy the inspiration and uplift of his character.

SLAYDEN, JAMES L., United States Representative:

It is indeed pleasant news to hear that we are to have a biography in English of that very remarkable man, Porfirio Diaz, President of the United States of Mexico.

I know no one so fit as you to write that book. You know the man, and while you will do the work *con amore* I am sure you will do it as a just and critical historian.

I look upon President Diaz as the most extraordinary man of the century. He exactly fits the place. His genius has made Mexico a great, strong, vibrant nation. A progressive statesman, he yet has the essential balance of conservatism, a soldier, he stands for peace, a patriot, he studies other countries and does not hesitate, because they may be foreign, to catch every valuable suggestion and apply it for the benefit of Mexico and the Mexicans.

STEPHENS, JOHN H., United States Representative:

I regard President Diaz as the greatest statesman and patriot that Mexico has ever produced.

I represented for several years the El Paso District in Congress, and during this time many vexed questions arose between our country and Mexico, and I always found the Diaz Administration willing to meet us

President Diaz on Horseback at Chapultepec

on a half-way ground, and to satisfactorily adjust all differences; one of these questions was "The Equitable Distribution of the Waters of the Rio Grande River"; another was the Free Zone question which was a continuous source of trouble and friction between the two governments.

The wise policies of President Diaz have put new life and energy in the Mexican people, and I firmly believe that he has placed Mexico on the great highway of national peace and prosperity.

STEVENSON, ADLAI E., Ex-Vice-President of the United States:

I am gratified to learn that you are soon to publish a biography of President Diaz. Your book will be of deep interest to the people of the United States.

President Diaz is an eminent statesman,—one of the really great men of the century. His marvellous capacity as an executive has been displayed in the government of his country. Under his efficient leadership Mexico has become one of the stable, progressive governments of the world.

It is my earnest wish that he may long live to preside over the destiny of our Sister Republic.

STODDARD, HENRY L., Editor of the *Evening Mail* of New York City:

Opportunity, continuity of tenure, and the signal confidence of his countrymen have all worked in behalf of Porfirio Diaz and the man has measured up to them. Under his generation-long rule the Republic of Mexico has moved out of a state of halted development and administrative instability and

taken its rank among the strong, progressive nations of the world. No living ruler save the Mikado has witnessed so great a transformation in his own domain or has so largely contributed to it. Diaz is of the great ones of his country, and his is one of the large figures in new world history.

SULZER, WILLIAM, United States Representative:

In my opinion General Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico, is one of the greatest patriots, and one of the most liberal and enlightened and progressive administrators in all the world. I know him; I know his career; and I know whereof I speak. He has done great things for Mexico. He has lifted the Mexicans to a higher plane, and has pushed his people forward in giant strides in the great march of civilization. He is a great soldier, but a greater civilian, and combines in his magnetic personality many of the remarkable traits and characteristics of the great Napoleon. Take him all in all, he is a most energetic and remarkable man from every standpoint —the greatest man Mexico has ever produced—one of the great, far-seeing men of the time—one of the great heroic figures of the world. He will occupy a large niche in the Mexican temple of fame, and the future historian will give him a brilliant chapter in the annals of the Western World.

SWANSON, CLAUDE A., Governor of Virginia:

I have always been a great admirer of President Diaz. I consider him one of the forceful characters of this century. His great intellect and will force

have made him pre-eminently successful and clearly designate him as one of the great men of our times. His successful administration of affairs in Mexico has been striking, and the advance of the nation under his direction has been wonderful. His career has been so striking, and so continuously successful that it has given him a deserved reputation far and wide.

THOMPSON, DAVID E., American Ambassador to Mexico:

In cheerfully sending you in brief my opinion of your most worthy President General Diaz, I quote from a speech recently made by me at a banquet given in Mexico at the American Club, on which occasion a likeness of the President was unveiled:

"As I look back over the thirty-three years since my first visit to Mexico, the evolution has been such that in all history there is no parallel. All this change can be accredited to the guiding master-mind of this one man: and the work of this master in war and civil life does not end thirty years back, as is generally reasoned, but more than thirty years beyond that—over sixty years of self-sacrificing life devoted to one effort, the welfare of his country.

"Self with this man has never been first. His youth was spent as one of the poorest of the poor, and after more than sixty years of the hardest work known to man, his country has all that his efforts have brought: he is still what may be called a poor man: a living example for all men of all nations, from the highest to the most lowly: an example of patriotism and honesty never to be overreached."

The thoughts I have expressed were formed through

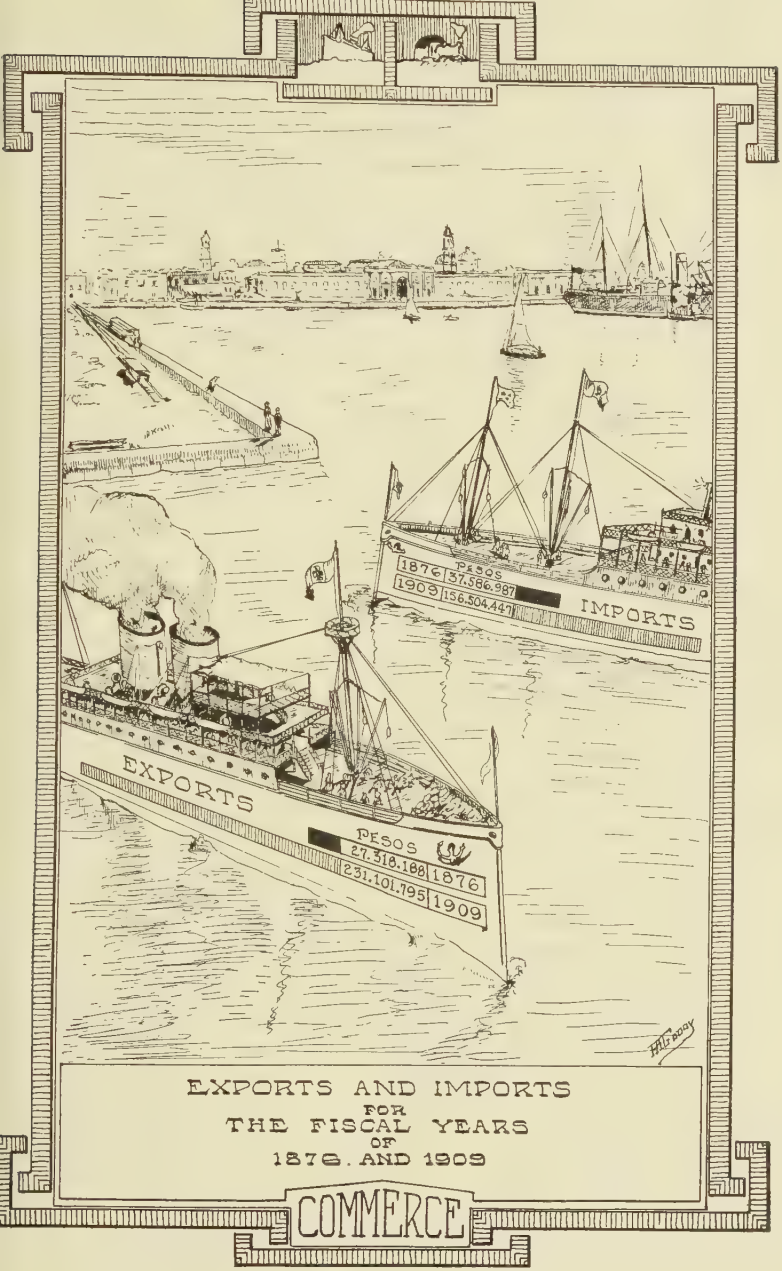
my intimate acquaintance. covering a long period of time, with the country and the man. I am confident they are right, even though largely from the heart, which holds deep affection for the man.

TRACEWELL, R. J., United States Comptroller of the Treasury:

I know, as do all reasonably intelligent persons, that President Diaz has proven himself one of the great men of the present century and has given Mexico a stable government, under which it is prospering, as it never prospered before. He recognized conditions as they were in his country, not as he probably would have had them, and has been instrumental in moulding a form of government suited to the intelligence and needs of his people. He has extended liberty of thought and action, where it could be extended without anarchy or revolution, and has remained at peace with his neighbors. He is entitled to the gratitude of his people and the respect and confidence of the civilized world.

WALCOTT, A. D., Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C.:

I have always had a great admiration for President Diaz, particularly in his recognition of the practical value of scientific investigation in the material development of Mexico. He has encouraged investigation in every field of scientific activity and, thus fostered, these researches, especially in connection with geological and geographical surveys, have advanced with such remarkable rapidity as to call forth the praise of men of science everywhere.



EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
FOR
THE FISCAL YEARS
OF
1876. AND 1909

COMMERCE

WARREN, FRANCIS E., United States Senator:

The career of Porfirio Diaz as citizen, soldier, and President affords a wonderful example of the transition of a revolutionist into the ideal presiding authority of a republican form of government.

With Diaz as President, the Republic of Mexico has enjoyed a stable form of republican government during a period of the world's history when such stability has enabled Mexico to keep pace with other great countries in the progress of the world.

Mexico has great natural resources: it is rich in the fertility of its lands, and unsurpassed in the diversity of its crops: its mines are the marvel and the envy of the capitalist of every land;—and these beneficial resources, combined with the progressive and yet conservative methods of the wonderful administration of President Diaz, have placed Mexico in the class of great nations of the present day.

With many others I believe that the cause of representative government on the Western Hemisphere has been strengthened and advanced by the great career of President Diaz, and I believe also that he is entitled to the confidence and respect of all who stand for free government.

WETMORE, GEORGE PEABODY, United States Senator:

I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with Porfirio Diaz, but it seems to me that no one can withhold a tribute of admiration from the man under whose direction the resources and wealth of his country have been so wonderfully developed, and

the stability of the Government of Mexico assured for so many years.

WHEELER, BENJAMIN I., President of the University of California:

I regard President Diaz as a great man. His has been an eminently successful life. He has put concrete foundations under the Mexican State. He was exactly fitted to the emergency of his times, and created out of chaos a government definitely suited to conditions. It has been seldom in the history of mankind that a personality has risen so exactly suited to the needs of a people.

WILLSON, AUGUSTUS E., Governor of the State of Kentucky:

I have for many years read with the greatest interest the wonderful history of President Porfirio Diaz, from his youth, born as one of the common people and come to power and honor by his great ability, his splendid courage, his true patriotism, and his strong common sense. He is a wise man, a brave man, a patriot, and a great President, and the honors which have come to him have come not by favor or chance, but by splendid usefulness and great achievements.

WINTHROP, BEEKMAN, Assistant Secretary of the Navy of the United States:

President Diaz is deserving of the greatest praise for what he has accomplished in Mexico. The unification of Mexico, the strengthening of the country's finances and credit, and the establishment of

its peace and prosperity, all of which have been accomplished through the untiring efforts of President Diaz, have been important factors in placing Mexico in the position she now enjoys among the nations of the world. His patriotism and devotion to his country have deservedly won for him the admiration and love of his people, and his long tenure of office, his election to which has in one or two instances been practically unanimous, is a striking example of the confidence and esteem in which he is held. In the history of the past half-century, President Diaz will occupy an enviable and leading place as an able administrator, a clear-sighted statesman, and a loyal and devoted friend of the Mexican Republic.

WOTHERSPOON, W. W., General, President of the United States War College:

History has again and again shown that when a nation is most in need of a great leader, destiny seems to furnish the man.

In 1876, when the integrity and future welfare of Mexico called for a strong, wise, and honest man to guide the ship of state, a worthy son of our sister Republic stepped forward in the person of General Porfirio Diaz. He is a man of the people, by instinct and training a soldier, a veteran of two wars, in both of which he fought and distinguished himself.

The history of Mexico for the past thirty-three years is the greatest monument to the honesty, patriotism, and wisdom of this great man, who in the society of nations will always be considered the right man in the right place.

WYMAN, WALTER, Brigadier-General, Surgeon-General of the United States:

It is a satisfaction to express in writing the sentiments I have so often expressed verbally—sentiments of respect and admiration for President Diaz inspired by a study of his career and by three personal interviews with him on matters pertaining to the public health. It is not alone Mexico that has been benefited by his splendid achievements; the United States also has profited by the firmness and intelligence of his administration.

Others will doubtless comment on his great military and political record, but it is my especial privilege to testify to his active interest in the advancement of human welfare through broad measures of hygiene and sanitation.

This has been demonstrated by the great sanitary improvements in the chief maritime port of Mexico, Vera Cruz, and elsewhere, and also by the administrative support he has given to the Superior Board of Health. This support has shown its results in the effectiveness of the Board, whose radical and successful measures to root out the bubonic plague in Mazatlan in 1902 and 1903 was one of the most signal victories ever achieved against this epidemic disease.

It has always been most gratifying to the visiting sanitarians from the United States to receive the personal greetings of President Diaz and to observe his manifest interest in the objects of the various sanitary conventions.

The encouragement he has given to Doctor Liceaga, the President of the Superior Board of Health, is

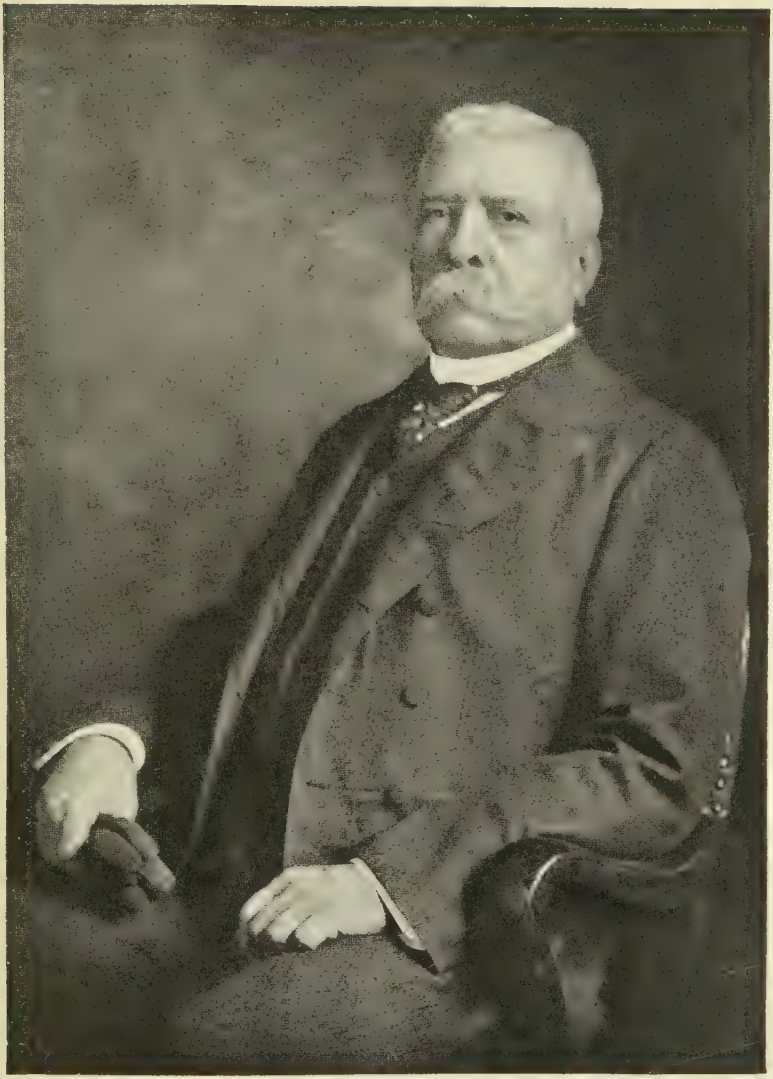
National Medical Institute
City of Mexico

noteworthy, and when it was announced at the Third International Sanitary Convention of American Republics, in the City of Mexico, in 1907, that yellow fever had practically been eradicated from the Republic, and the same forces which had been successfully utilized against this disease were then being employed in the eradication of malaria, comments were freely made by the delegates laudatory of an enlightened public policy that has placed Mexico in the front ranks of the nations which are emphasizing their civilization and cultivation by sanitary reforms.

I am glad of the opportunity to pay this just tribute to President Diaz.

With the presentation of the foregoing comments of representative men from the United States and Canada, we terminate our task. This task has been to us highly inspiring and attractive, as thereby we have been able to lay in detail before our English-speaking friends the facts and circumstances which make up the biography of a man, whose great military deeds are well worth recording, and whose triumphs as a constructive statesman entitle him to be called "The Master Builder of a Great Commonwealth."

APPENDICES



President Diaz

I

SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE READ BY PRESIDENT PORFIRIO DIAZ AT THE OPENING OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1909

Taken from the *Bulletin of the International Union of American Republics*, November, 1909

The conventions negotiated at the Second Peace Conference have been ratified, and the Government, on September 6th, subscribed to the international agreement concluded in Madrid in 1891 with regard to the registration of trade-marks. The conventions on public hygiene, signed at Paris in 1903 and at Rome in 1907, have also received the formal adherence of Mexico.

Immigration statistics show that during the six months, January to June, 1909, the number of persons entering the Republic was 24,300. Public health reports are satisfactory, and a sanitary station has been equipped at the port of Salina Cruz, at which point the bulk of Asiatic immigrants enter the country.

Improvements at the capital are progressing steadily, 72,000 square meters of asphalt pavement having been laid down, streets widened, and other measures taken in the interests of the inhabitants of the city.

The heavy losses of life and property occasioned by earthquake and floods have been met by government aid, and in response to the necessities of the times relief has poured into the stricken sections from all parts of the country.

The compilation of laws undertaken by the Department of Justice has been brought up to date and the work of revising the Penal Code is nearly completed.

Transactions entered in the public registry of the capital from January to June, 1909, aggregated 971,218,938 *pesos*, exceeding by over 300,000,000 *pesos* similar entries in the corresponding period of 1908.

Scholastic reforms have been introduced and new schools established, prizes offered for technical research, and archæological investigations continued with interesting results. Mexico was represented at the International Congress of Musical History, which was held at Vienna in May, 1909; the Fourth Latin-American Medical Congress of Rio de Janeiro in August, 1909; the Medical Congress of Budapest during the same month; the Leprosy Congress held in Norway in September, and the Congress at Rome for the discussion of labor accidents, held in May. A delegate of the Department of Public Instruction and the National Medical Institute was present, in July, at the celebration of the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Geneva.

In regard to internal development, President Diaz stated that during the period between January 1 and June 30, 1909, the Department of Promotion issued 715 title deeds for lands transformed from national

into private property, yielding receipts to the Treasury in the amount of 117,087 *pesos*.

The Geographical Exploration Commission continued surveys and completed maps of many sections of the Republic. The Nazas River region is at present being studied with a view to determining its cultivable areas as effected by the development of irrigation problems. Measures are being perfected for the connection of the Mexican Geodetic Survey with that of the United States, and for the establishment of such stations as are required for the completion of the meteorological service.

Deeds to mining properties during the period under review were issued to the number of 2072.

Ninety-six applications have been presented looking to the utilization for various purposes of 500,000 litres of water per second from bodies of water subject to federal jurisdiction. Concessions have been granted for the use of water for irrigation, motive power, domestic and industrial purposes and nineteen title deeds have been issued authenticating new rights or confirming old ones. Special subventions have been granted for the irrigation and colonization of 130,000 hectares of land situated in the states of Sinaloa, Chihuahua, and Tamaulipas; agricultural and dairy industries have been fostered and forestry preservation has been provided for, through the organization of a technical staff and practical schools.

In the half year under consideration 603 patents of invention were granted and 429 trade-marks registered. Commercial names and announcements to the number of 68 were also registered.

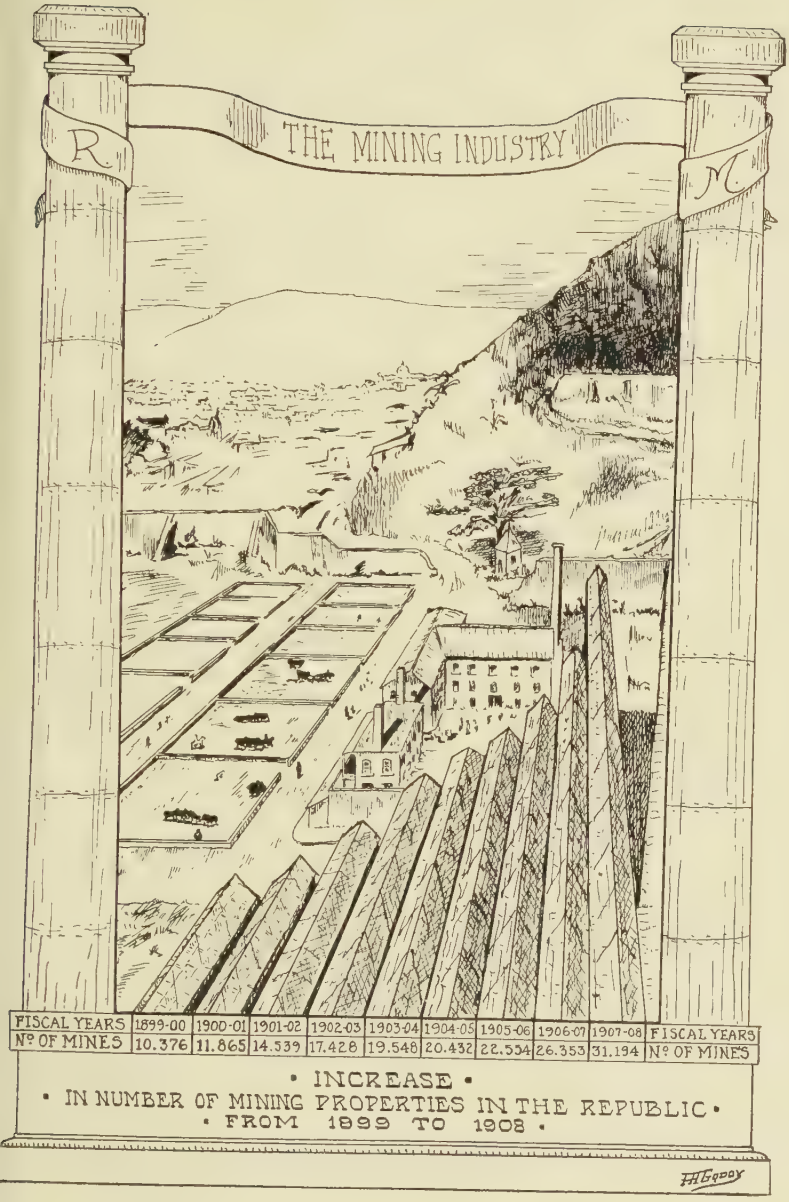
At Tampico, Vera Cruz, Puerto Mexico, and Salina Cruz structural and sanitary works were carried on,

canals and waterways were improved, and in various sections roads extended.

The total extent of railways in the Republic is 24,161 kilometres, federal lines aggregating 19,321 kilometres and those under jurisdiction of states 4840 kilometres. Between January and June, 1909, railways under federal jurisdiction increased by 250 kilometres. The chief contributions to this increase were made by the Cananea, Yaqui River, and Pacific's line from Alamos to Guadalajara, which has been completed between Navajoa and Culiacan and Mazatlan; the Inter-California Railway; and the line between Chalco and Rio Frio, the two last-named roads having been completed.

Post-offices on July 1, 1909, numbered 2964, and during the year the amount of correspondence handled was represented by 184,000,000 pieces. Interior postal money orders were issued during the twelve months to the amount of 50,110,000 *pesos*, of which 25,210,000 *pesos* were credited to the last half of the year. Postal money orders abroad were drawn up between January and June, 1909, in the sum of 2,287,000 *pesos*.

Owing to a modification in the equivalent of Mexican currency, the rates of postage on parcels sent from Mexico to Great Britain and to other countries through the intermediary of the British service were doubled. For this purpose a supplementary convention was entered into. The system of advice of payment was introduced in the postal money-order service with Germany, Canada, France, Great Britain, and Salvador, and on August 1st a convention went into effect establishing a money-order service for a maximum amount of 200 *pesos* per order between



FISCAL YEARS	1899-00	1900-01	1901-02	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06	1906-07	1907-08	FISCAL YEARS
Nº OF MINES	10.376	11.865	14.539	17.428	19.548	20.432	22.534	26.353	31.194	Nº OF MINES

• INCREASE •
• IN NUMBER OF MINING PROPERTIES IN THE REPUBLIC •
• FROM 1899 TO 1908 •

H H Boddy

Mexico and Austria, including the Austrian post-offices in the Levant.

A parcels-post convention with Canada was concluded, to go into operation on October 1st, and a modification of the postal money-order service between Mexico and the United States was entered into.

Additions to federal telegraph lines were made between January and June to the extent of 3383 kilometres (2114 miles). Wireless stations were established at Payo Obispo and Xcalac, in the Quintana Roo Territory, bringing the number of such stations in the Republic up to six. The improvement in receipts from the telegraph service during the half year are noted as compared with the preceding six months.

Total revenues for the fiscal year 1908–9 sufficed to meet all budget expenses, the economies exercised in expenditures occasioned by business conditions having been made without detriment to the public service.

While both import and export duties declined as compared with the preceding fiscal year, in the case of the latter the diminution is more apparent than real, being less than the amount formerly obtained from export duties on henequen and dyewoods, on which export duties were not collected during 1908–9.

Many improvements have been made in the military and naval equipment of the Republic. The British-built *General Guerrero*, a gunboat of 1800 tons displacement, has been placed upon the Pacific coast and modern guns mounted on the training corvette *Zaragoza*. The smokeless-powder factory has been thoroughly equipped with new and adequate

machinery, a new rolling plant added to the National Gun Foundry, and the regulation armament of the Mexican Army has been augmented.

In concluding his message, President Diaz sums up the internal affairs of the Republic in the following terms:

"In the foregoing review you will have observed that nothing has occurred in the administration of public affairs of a nature to impair the confidence of the Executive in the future of the Republic, seeing that both in our foreign relations and in the vital matter of our finances, notwithstanding transient difficulties, as well as in other departments, we may note all the evidences of that prosperity and progress which for years past have been characteristic features of our situation. Happily the Government has behind it the force of public opinion, which upholds it in its efforts to stimulate the country's progressive development and to maintain its credit abroad at the high standard to which it is entitled, both by the excellent sense of its people and the exalted wisdom and patriotic sentiments of their representatives."

II

LIST OF BATTLES AND SIEGES IN WHICH GENERAL PORFIRIO DIAZ HAS TAKEN PART

1857

Ixcapa, Oaxaca, battle of; August 13th.
Oaxaca, Oaxaca, siege of; December 26th.

1858

Oaxaca, Oaxaca, assault of; January 16th.
Jalapa, Oaxaca, taking of; February 25th.
Las Jicaras, Oaxaca, battle of; April 13th.

1859

Mixtequilla, Oaxaca, battle of; June 17th.
Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, battle of; November 25th.

1860

Mitla, Oaxaca, battle of; January 21st.
Fortin de la Soledad, Oaxaca, battle of; February 2d.
Marquesado, Oaxaca, battle of; March 9th.
Ixtepeji, Oaxaca, battle of; May 15th.
San Luis, Oaxaca, battle of; August 5th.

1861

Jalatlaco, Mexico, battle of; August 13th.
Pachuca, Hidalgo, battle of; October 20th.

1862

Acultzingo, Vera Cruz, battle of; April 28th.
Puebla, Puebla, battle of; May 5th.
Orizaba, Vera Cruz, battle of; June 14th.

1863

Puebla, Puebla, siege of; March 16th to May 17th.
Taxco, Guerrero, taking of; October 28th.

1864

Nanaguatipam, Oaxaca, battle of; August 10th.

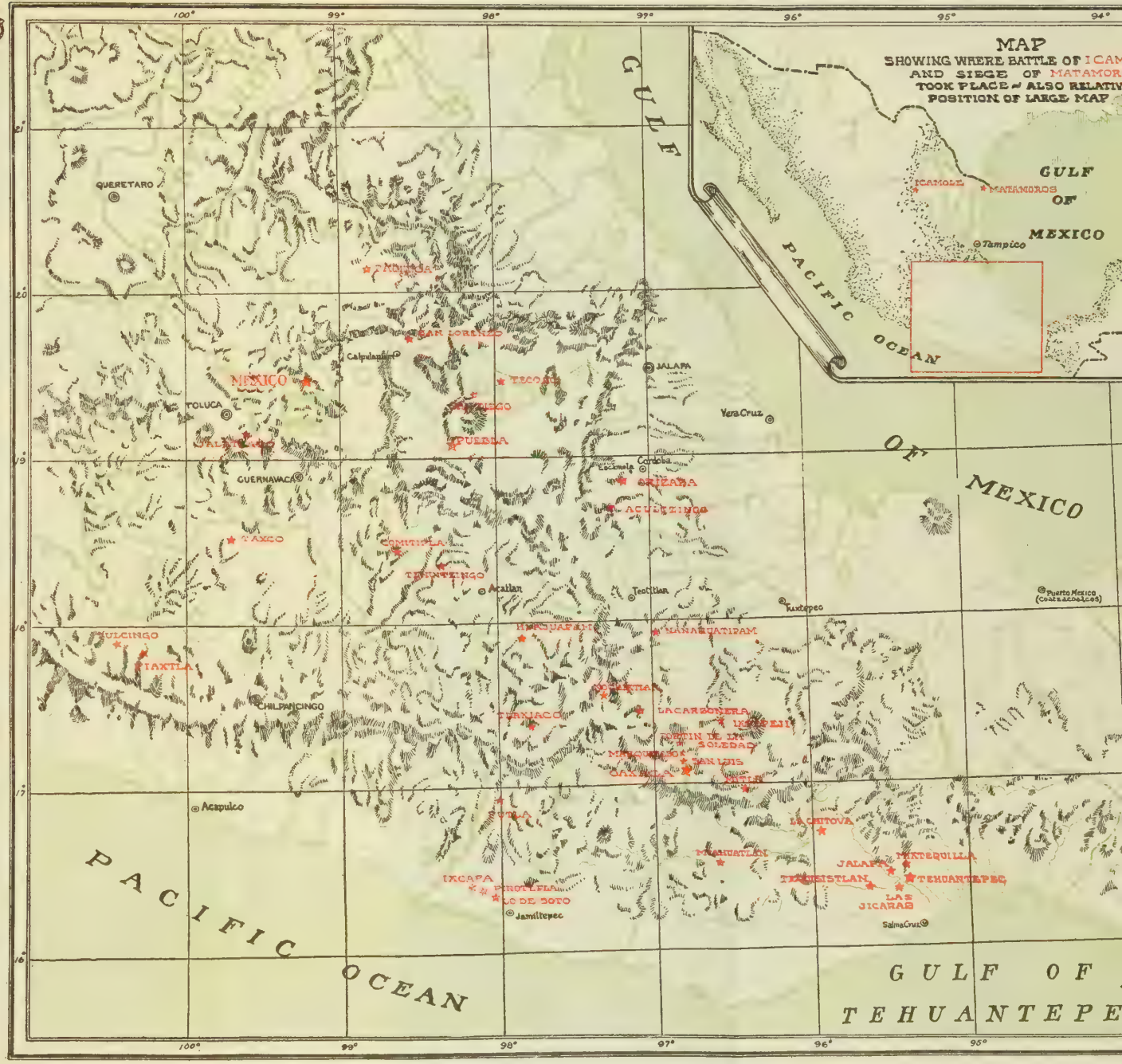
1865

Oaxaca, Oaxaca, siege of; January 8th to February 9th.
Tehuitzingo, Puebla, battle of; September 22d.
Piaxtla, Guerrero, battle of; September 23d.
Tulcingo, Guerrero, battle of; October 1st.
Comitlipa, Puebla, battle of; December 4th.

1866

Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, battle of; January 6th.
Lo de Soto, Oaxaca, battle of; February 25th.
Pinotepa, Oaxaca, battle of; March 28th.
Putla, Oaxaca, battle of; April 14th.
Huajuapam, Oaxaca, battle of; September 5th.
Nochixtlan, Oaxaca, battle of; September 23d.
Miahuatlan, Oaxaca, battle of; October 3d.

PLACES	STATES
A	
ACULTZINGO	VERA CRUZ
C	
CARBONERA, LA	OAXACA
CHITOVA, LA	OAXACA
COMITIPLA	PUEBLA
F	
FORTIN DE LA SOLEDAD	OAXACA
H	
HUAJUAPAM	OAXACA
I	
ICAMOLE	NUEVO LEON
IXTEPEJI	OAXACA
IXCAPA	OAXACA
J	
JALAPA	OAXACA
JALATLACO	MEXICO
JICARAS, LAS	OAXACA
L	
LO DE SOTO	OAXACA
M	
MARQUESADO	OAXACA
MATAMOROS	TAMAULIPAS
MEXICO CITY	FEDERAL DISTRICT
MIAHUATLAN	OAXACA
MITLA	OAXACA
MIXTEQUILLA	OAXACA
N	
NANAHUATIPAM	OAXACA
NOCHIXTLAN	OAXACA
O	
OAXACA (3 SIEGES AND 1 BATTLE)	OAXACA
ORIZABA	VERA CRUZ
P	
PACHUCA	HIDALGO
PIAXTLA	GUERRERO
PINOTEPA	OAXACA
PUEBLA (3 SIEGES AND 1 BATTLE)	PUEBLA
PUTLA	OAXACA
S	
SAN DIEGO NOTARIO	TLAXCALA
SAN LORENZO	HIDALGO
SAN LUIS	OAXACA
T	
TAXCO	GUERRERO
TECOAC	TLAXCALA
TEHUANTEPEC	OAXACA
TEHUITZINGO	PUEBLA
TEQUISISTLAN	OAXACA
TLAXIACO	OAXACA
TULCINGO	PUEBLA



La Carbonera, Oaxaca, battle of; October 18th.
Oaxaca, Oaxaca, taking of; October 31st.
La Chitova, Oaxaca, battle of; December 19th.
Tequisistlan, Oaxaca, battle of; December 26th.

1867

Puebla, Puebla, siege of; March 9th to April 2d.
Puebla, Puebla, assault and taking of; April 2d.
San Diego Notario, Tlaxcala, battle of; April 6th.
San Lorenzo, Hidalgo, battle of; April 10th.
Mexico City, Federal District, siege and taking of; April 12th to June 21st.

1876

Matamoros, Tamaulipas, taking of; April 2d.
Icamole, Nuevo Leon, battle of; May 20th.
Tecoac, Tlaxcala, battle of; November 16th.

III

MEDALS AND DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT DIAZ

From Foreign Governments

1886, August 26. Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal and Distinguished Order of Charles III (Spain).

November 20. Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Sword (Norway and Sweden).

1887, April 25. Grand Cross of the Tower and Sword, of Courage, Loyalty and Merit (Portugal).

May 2. Order of the Liberator—First Class (Venezuela).

1888, April 26. Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor (France).

1892, April 12. Grand Cross of the Chrysanthemum (Japan).

1893, April 24. Grand Cross of the Order of St. Maritius and St. Lazarus (Italy).

1895, October 25. Grand Cross of the Order of Military Merit (Spain).

1896, October 7. Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold (Belgium).

1896, October 26. Grand Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle (Prussia).

1901, September 30. Grand Cross of the Royal Order (Hungarian) of St. Stephen (Austria-Hungary).

1902, December 11. Decoration of the First Class with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Lion and the Sun (Persia).

1905, April 22. Decoration of First Degree of the First Class of the Imperial Order of the Double Dragon (China).

June 29. Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath (Great Britain).

1908, April 21. Grand Cross of the Netherland Lion, conferred by the Queen of the Netherlands.

1909, April 16. Decoration of the Order of Alexander Newski (Russia).

From the Federal Government of Mexico (*Military*)

Special decoration for the taking of the City of Puebla on April 2, 1867.

Honorary Plaque for the War of Reform.

Honorary Medal for the battle of Pachuca.

Honorary Medal for the battle at Acultzingo.

Honorary Medal for the battle of the 5th of May, 1862.

Cross for the siege of Puebla in 1863.

Cross of the First Class for having fought during the War of French Intervention.

Cross of Constancy of the Third Class.

Cross and Plaque of Constancy of the Second Class.

Cross and Plaque of Constancy of the First Class.

Grand Cross of Military Merit.

From the State Governments of Mexico (*Military*)

Decoration granted by the Legislature of the State of Guerrero for having fought against the Intervention and Empire.

Honorary Medal granted by the State of Chihuahua.

Honorary decoration granted by the Legislature of the State of Oaxaca for the battles of Miahuatlan and La Carbonera and for the siege and taking of the City of Oaxaca.

Honorary decoration granted by the Legislature of the State of Puebla for having fought against the French Intervention.

Honorary decoration granted by the Legislature of the State of Puebla for the siege and taking of the City of Puebla on April 2, 1867.

President Diaz

IV

BANQUET OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK HELD AT THE WALDORF-ASTORIA IN NEW YORK CITY ON THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 19, 1908

Extracts taken from the official publication of the Chamber of Commerce

The One Hundred and Fortieth Banquet of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, was held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Thursday evening, November the nineteenth, nineteen hundred and eight.

The decorations, in coloring, design, and historical significance, were more brilliant than even at the former banquets of the Chamber, always distinguished in this respect.

The controlling idea was that of the oneness of the North American Continent in development and destiny. In place of the seal of the Chamber, which at former banquets had been placed above the chair of the president, the portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart, had the place of honor, and was surrounded by a beautiful cluster of American flags. On the right of this was displayed a portrait of President Diaz of Mexico with the appropriate background of a merchant flag; while on the left was the

portrait of Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Premier of Canada, surrounded by Canadian and British flags.

Around the banquet-hall, completely covering its walls, were superb combinations of the flags of all the principal nations with which the United States enjoys commercial intercourse, together with banners bearing the names of all the states of the Union, and the coat of arms of the United States, New York State and New York City. The Corinthian columns around the room were surrounded by gilt eagles in clusters of silk flags and pendent from them were silk American banners. Rarely if ever this famous dining-room presented as magnificent a scene as on this evening, when, amid these brilliant decorations, the four hundred and twenty-six members and guests assembled, and the boxes were filled with ladies.

The guests of the Chamber were as follows: Right Honorable James Bryce, British Ambassador; Señor José F. Godoy, Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico; Honorable Clifford Sifton, P. C., lately Minister of the Interior of Canada; Byron E. Walker, Esq., C. V. O.; Honorable Chauncey M. Depew, Senator of the United States; Rear Admiral Caspar F. Goodrich, United States Navy; Lord Northcliff; James J. Hill, Esq.; Chancellor Henry M. MacCracken, New York University; Andrew Carnegie, Esq.; Reverend James M. Ludlow, D.D.; J. Edward Simmons, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York; J. Pierpont Morgan, Esq.; Charles Stewart Smith, Esq., Ex-President and honorary member of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York; John S. Kennedy, Esq.; Honorable John G. McCullough; Honorable Cornelius N. Bliss; Thomas H. McKittrick, Esq.; Honorable F. C. T. O'Hara, Deputy Minister

of Trade and Commerce of Canada; Mitchell Innes, Esq.; Honorable John Bane; Captain Frank W. Kellogg, United States Navy; Robert Gill, Esq.; Thomas L. Willson, Esq.; St. Clair McKelway, Esq.; Charles R. Miller, Esq.; Oswald G. Willard, Esq.; Hart Lyman, Esq.; John Foord, Esq.; Samuel S. Fontaine, Esq.; and John W. Ewan, Esq.

The first toast of the evening "The President of the United States" was drank, the entire assembly rising.

With great enthusiasm the second toast to His Majesty King Edward VII was drank, and then Mr. Simmons introduced the British Ambassador, Right Honorable James Bryce who was greeted with cheers.

In the speech of Ambassador Bryce, the following phrases are found:

"On this continent you have three great countries. I see behind me here, flanking the portrait of your never-to-be-forgotten first great president, the portraits of two distinguished statesmen, the President of the Republic of Mexico (*great applause*), one of the most remarkable figures of our time who has for so long guided, and guided wisely, the fortunes of that country; and on the other side the portrait of the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Wilfred Laurier (*great applause*) who has shown a rarely equalled skill in leading the legislature and in directing the policies of Canada for a long period of years, a man also of the highest gifts and of the highest character. We of the British Empire appreciate, Mr. President, the compliment which you paid Canada in asking these Canadian gentlemen to come, and in honoring

Canada and ourselves by hanging the picture of Sir Wilfred Laurier on the opposite side of that portrait of the President of the Republic of Mexico (*great applause*). Here are three great countries occupying practically the whole of this Continent, each of them of great natural resources,—and especially as regards Canada and Mexico,—of far greater resources than have yet been fully developed. Each was made to supply the needs of the other and to be a market for the other, and thus the prosperity of these three countries is naturally connected. The more trade there is between them the better for all (*great applause*). And that is true of all countries. It is true of the United States and Great Britain; it is true of Great Britain and Germany. The more trade there is between countries, the more they send to one another and take from one another the better for each of them, and the stronger are the guarantees for general peace and good will (*applause*).

"That is a subject, Gentlemen, that I could willingly pursue, if I were not afraid that somewhere along the length of the road I might come upon a notice board telling me that I was approaching controversial topics, because there are those who do not prize as you and I do this abundant interchange of commodities and do not recognize the benefit it confers. So I pause. But this I will say, and this is matter of no controversy, that there never were four statesmen in this continent who were more desirous of peace and good relations between all parts of America than President Roosevelt, and Mr. Secretary Root, representing your country (*great applause*), Sir Wilfred Laurier, representing Canada (*great applause*), and President Diaz, representing

RAILWAY SYSTEM
MEXICO
SCALES
MILES
KILOMETERS
RAILROADS IN 1876
RAILROADS IN 1909
COMPARATIVE RAILWAY MILEAGE
IN
• 1876 AND 1909 •
• RAILWAY MILEAGE •
1876 | 350
1909 | 15.004
YEAR | MILES
UNITED STATES
GULF OF MEXICO
PACIFIC OCEAN
GUATEMALA
CENTRAL AMERICA
TERRITORY OF QUINTANA ROO
Ciudad Juarez
Nogales
Cananea
Magdalena
Naco
Torralitos
Hermosillo
Ronichi
Minas Prietas
Corral
Guaymas
Tiburon I.
Temosachic
Trancas
Chihuahua
Ciudad Porfirio Diaz
Eagle Pass
Topolobampo
Culiacan
Altata
La Paz
Mazatlan
Durango
Parral
Jimenez
Sta Rosalia
Torreon
Lerdo
Gomez Palacio
Tlahualilo
Cuatro Cienegas
Monclova
Nuevo Laredo
Laredo
Matamoros
Monterey
Saltillo
Montemorelos
Linares
Victoria
Tampico
Zacatecas
Luis Potosi
Rioverde
Aguas Calientes
San Blas
Tepic
Guadalajara
Chapala
Ocotlan
Morelia
Manzanillo
Colima
Uruapan
Patzcuaro
Toluca
Mexico
Cuernavaca
Puebla
Jalapa
Veracruz
Orizaba
Cordoba
Tehuacan
Iguala
Chilpancingo
Acapulco
Cuicatlan
Oaxaca
Tehuantepec
Salina Cruz
Sta Lucrecia
St Juan Bautista
Tonala
Tuxtla
Chiapa
Merida
Progreso
Campeche
Calkini
Peto
Valladolid
Temax
Izamal

Mexico (*great applause*). I think it a great piece of good fortune that the power of these four distinguished statesmen should have coincided. Thanks to their good will and pacific sentiments as well as to the actions of the British Government, the past eight months have seen a treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and the British Empire, a treaty which includes Canada, and also one between the United States and Mexico (*great applause*). These treaties, Gentlemen, express not only the excellent purpose of the governments but also the hearty desires of the three peoples. I need not tell you that King Edward the VII and the British Government and people entirely share those sentiments. They rejoice to think that this continent is becoming and has become the home of what we trust will be perpetual peace (*great applause*)."

. . . . . .

President Simmons then proposed a toast to "The President of Mexico," at the same time reading Secretary Root's recent tribute to Porfirio Diaz as one of the greatest men to be held up for the hero-worship of mankind.[1]

The toast was responded to, with great earnestness, by Señor José F. Godoy, Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico:

"Mr. President and Members of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York: Six years ago, on an occasion like the present one, the following words were spoken regarding you all: 'You belong not merely to the city, not merely to the state, but to all the country, and you stand high among the great factors in building up that marvellous pros-

[1] Inserted at page 90 of this book.

perity which the entire country now enjoys.' These words were uttered by that great and illustrious statesman, who is now at the head of the administration of this country, President Theodore Roosevelt (*applause*).

"These words are indicative of the honor that I now enjoy as I sit by your side and join you in celebrating the anniversary of your important organization. But the honor conferred on me is greatly increased by the circumstance that it has fallen to my lot to be designated by the chief magistrate of my country to convey to you his greetings, his good wishes and his appreciation for the kind invitation sent him to attend this magnificent banquet (*applause*).

"I think the name, the achievements and the traits of character of President Porfirio Diaz, the present condition of the Mexican Republic, and the satisfactory relations existing between our two countries, are well known to most of you; but at the earnest suggestion of some of you gentlemen, I shall speak briefly on these subjects.

"No better introduction to my remarks could be made than the eloquent and well-deserved tribute paid to President Diaz by Secretary Root which has just been read by your president. It makes much for friendly and appreciative relations between our respective states, when a high officer of your country is able to speak with such warmth about our great president.

"If we compare the Mexico of to-day with the Mexico of thirty years ago, the justice of the encomiums of Secretary Root on the administrative ability of President Diaz is apparent. And if we examine the incidents of his career as a soldier and as a states-

man and his pure private life, we find likewise the eulogy quoted fully justified.

"Mexico is to-day at peace with all nations of the world; her credit abroad is first class, as you yourselves can testify, since a few days ago bonds for irrigation purposes, guaranteed by my government, were considerably oversubscribed both in this country and abroad; public works of great importance are everywhere under way or completed, some of them, like the harbor works of Vera Cruz, Manzanillo, and Salina Cruz, the drainage works of the valley and City of Mexico, and the railroad that is to be opened to traffic in a few days, making a new all-rail route between the two oceans, may well arouse the admiration and wonderment, even of those who, like you, are daily viewing extensive subways and tunnels, magnificent suspension bridges and lofty skyscrapers (*applause*).

"In the Mexico of to-day peace and tranquillity reign supreme through the land, public instruction has made great strides, sanitary regulations are strictly adhered to, and public safety and the rights of all foreigners, as well as all Mexicans, are rigidly safeguarded.

"In this connection, permit me to refer to the report of the Special Agent of your Department of Commerce and Labor, Mr. Arthur B. Butman, who as late as last June said: 'The growth and influence of the Mexican Republic is daily becoming of more importance to the world at large. Its leaders in thought and affairs, realizing the necessity for outside aid in developing the natural resources of the country, have wisely framed such laws as are a safeguard to the commercial, financial and industrial interests, and

the constant increase in the foreign capital invested in Mexico is the reflex of their action.'

"I may here add that the reports of the active and intelligent consular officers of the United States in my country, have furnished full data regarding the present conditions of Mexico and such information was officially summarized on last September in the following words: 'It reveals a continuous growth and extension of the country's industrial and vital interests, contemporaneous with the progress of the United States and Canada. This is possible under the sound, stable administration of the national affairs of that country and is aided by its immense natural resources.'

"All that I have said is sufficient to demonstrate the flourishing condition of Mexico, and that we, Mexicans, by placing General Diaz at the head of the administration have, as you say, 'the right man in the right place and at the right time' (*applause*).

"The commercial relations between Mexico and the United States are at present most satisfactory, and in that behalf I may say that the great State of New York, as well as this metropolis, have powerfully contributed to bring them about. And nothing less could be expected from a state so enterprising and resourceful; from a state that has at its northern extremity Niagara Falls, one of the greatest marvels of nature, and towards its southern boundary New York City, one of the greatest achievements of man; from a state that gave prominence to men like William H. Seward, chief adviser of your great President Abraham Lincoln, who always exhibited friendship to my country; from a state that has given a resting place to one of the greatest military

Department of Public Instruction and Fine Arts
City of Mexico

leaders of the age, and one of Mexico's best friends, General Ulysses S. Grant (*applause and cheers*).

"The friendly and commercial relations between both countries are being fostered by the wise policies pursued by both governments, and I consider that under the administration of President-elect William H. Taft (*applause*) the same policy of amity, good will and mutual respect put in practice by the present Executive will be continued, not only because of the wise and far-sighted statesmanship of the President-elect, but also because by so doing he will give life and being to the express wishes of the whole American nation (*applause*).

"And now I will close by expressing the hope, in the name of President Porfirio Diaz, to which I may be allowed to add my personal and humble desires, that the succeeding years may bring greater prosperity to the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York; that those succeeding years may carry still greater happiness to the citizens of New York City and State; that every recurring year may bring in its train greater material and moral advancement to this great nation; and that every ensuing period of time may render closer the commercial and friendly relations between the peoples of our two independent, progressive, and peace-loving sister republics (*vociferous applause*)."

Señor Godoy's address was received with many manifestations of enthusiasm, which were renewed when Mr. Simmons on behalf of the Chamber, presented to Señor Godoy the life-sized portrait of President Diaz hanging on the wall of the banquet-hall.

The last toast was to "The Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Wilfred Laurier" which was eloquently

responded to by Mr. Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Honorable Clifford Sifton, P. C., Ex-Minister of the Interior of Canada, and James J. Hill, Esq. The text of these toasts was published *in extenso* in the account from which the foregoing was taken.

V

THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS DIAZ AND TAFT AT THE FRONTIER

Details of the Interview and Festivities

The memorable meeting of Presidents Porfirio Diaz and William H. Taft at the frontier of Mexico and the United States, on October 16, 1909, is thus described in telegrams to the press of the United States:

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 16.—The long-expected meeting between President Taft and President Diaz of the Republic of Mexico took place here to-day. Outwardly it was attended with a display of soldiery, a flare of trumpets, a boom of cannon, and a pomp of ceremony, suggestive of supreme authority, but in the actual handclasp of the two executives and in the exchange of courteous words, there was simple but cordial informality.

President Diaz was the first to speak. He assured President Taft of his warm personal regard and his high esteem of the man who had accomplished so much in the Philippines, in Cuba, and elsewhere, and who had now the honor to be the chief executive of so great a nation as the United States. President Taft

declared he was glad to meet President Diaz and to know the president of such a great nation; especially glad to know the present president, who had made the nation great.

Both presidents dwelt upon the cordiality of the relations existing between the United States and Mexico. President Taft declared that to-day's meeting was not necessary to make stronger the bonds of friendship; it merely typified the strength of the bonds as they already exist. There were less than a score of persons permitted to witness the meeting of the two executives. Even these were excluded later when President Taft and President Diaz withdrew into an inner room of the Chamber of Commerce building, where the historic meeting occurred, and were only attended by Governor Creel, of the State of Chihuahua, former ambassador to the United States, who acted as interpreter.

The scene of the day's ceremonies shifted from time to time from this thriving little American city across the Rio Grande River to the typical Mexican settlement of Ciudad Juarez.

In the customs-house at Juarez, President Diaz received a return call from President Taft, and this evening entertained the American President and a large dinner party at a state banquet which, in all its surroundings of lavish decorations and wealth of silver plate handed down from the time of Emperor Maximilian, probably was the most notable feast ever served on the American Continent.

It was at this banquet to-night that the mere formal and public expressions of regard between the two executives as the representatives of the people of the United States and of Mexico were exchanged. The

President Diaz

President Taft

banquet also marked the end of the day of international pageantry—a day of cloudless skies.

Toast of President Diaz

The culmination of the day's program came when President Diaz arose in his wonderful garden banquet-hall, and lifting his glass to the President of the United States proposed this toast:

"Mr. President, Gentlemen: The visit that His Excellency President Taft to-day makes to the Mexican territory will mark an epoch in the history of Mexico. We have had very illustrious American visitors, such as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and the Hon. Messrs. Seward and Root; but never before have we seen in our land the chief magistrate of the great American Union. This striking trait of international courtesy, which Mexico acknowledges and appreciates to its full value and significance, will henceforward establish a happy precedent for the Latin-American republics to cultivate unbroken and cordial relations among themselves, with us and with every nation of the continent.

"Actuated by these sentiments, which are also those of my compatriots, I raise my glass to the everlasting enjoyment by the country of the immortal Washington of all the happiness and prosperity which justly belongs to the intelligent industry and eminent civicism that are the characteristics of the manly and cultured American people and to the enduring glory of its heroic founders.

"I raise my glass to the personal happiness of its illustrious President, who has come to honor us with his personality and friendship, an occasion which will

serve to strengthen the bonds existing between the two neighboring nations, whose respective elements of life and interests find in themselves reciprocal complement and enhancement."

Toast of President Taft

In acknowledging this sentiment, President Taft raised his glass to Mexico's President with this toast:

"Responding as befits the cordiality of this auspicious occasion, I rise to express, in the name and on behalf of the people of the United States, their profound admiration and high esteem for the great, illustrious, and patriotic President of the Republic of Mexico. I also take this occasion to pronounce the hearty sentiments of friendship and accord with which my countrymen regard the Mexican people.

"Your Excellency, I have left the United States and set my feet in your great and prosperous country to emphasize the more these high sentiments, and to evidence the feeling of brotherly neighborhood which exists between our two great nations.

"The people of the United States respect and honor the Mexicans for their patriotic devotion, their will, energy, and their steady advance in industrial development and moral happiness.

"The aim and ideals of our two nations are identical, their sympathy mutual and lasting, and the world has become assured of a vast neutral zone of peace, in which the controlling aspiration of either nation is individual human happiness.

"I drink to my friend, the President of this great Republic; to his continued long life and happiness,

and to the never-ending bond of mutual sympathy between Mexico and the United States."

The Day's Ceremonies

The day's ceremonies began this morning when President Diaz, in a state carriage, with gold hubs, gold-mounted doors, black horses, and gay cockades, crossed the international bridge with an escort of soldiers. The main body of Mexican troops were left behind at the bridge entrance. The Diaz carriage was driven at a smart pace through the Chamizal territory, to be met at the boundary by the American troops and by Secretary of War Dickinson.

A salute of twenty-one guns was fired as President Diaz stepped from his own carriage into one provided by the American authorities.

With an escort of two squadrons and three batteries of American field artillery, the visiting President was taken at double-quick time through the streets of the city to the Chamber of Commerce building, where President Taft awaited him.

President Diaz was in full dress uniform. Gold lace was at his throat and his cuffs, and a broad gold sash was around his waist. On his breast glittered many decorations.

Loud Cheers for Diaz

All along the line of march President Diaz was cheered by the crowds. With plumed chapeau in hand, he acknowledged the greeting with bows to left and right. Secretary of War Dickinson rode behind him, and an aid occupied the forward seat in the carriage. With President Taft when he greeted

Diaz were Secretary Dickinson and Postmaster-General Hitchcock, Capt. Archibald W. Butt, Gen. Albert Meyer, U. S. A., Assistant Secretary W. Michler, and C. C. Wagner, of the White House staff.

President Diaz was accompanied by members of his Cabinet and military staff. The private interview between the presidents lasted for fifteen minutes. It is officially stated that it consisted of but an elaboration of their public utterances, and that no matters of diplomacy were touched upon.

Formal Greeting to Diaz

Secretary Dickinson, in greeting President Diaz at the boundary to-day, said:

"You are the first chief executive of a nation to cross our border. In this act you are giving not only to the people of your and our country but the whole world the highest manifestation of the cordial relations existing between these contiguous sister republics and of your desire to make them, so far as you can, perpetual.

"We fully appreciate the honor of your visit and we realize the magnificence of the noble purpose that inspired you. In behalf of the President and of the people of the United States, I give assurance of their cordial esteem for the Republic of Mexico and its wise and beneficent president, and welcome you to their country and its hospitality."

Those Present at Interview

Those present at the interview between President Taft and President Diaz in the Chamber of Commerce building, El Paso, were J. H. Dickinson, Secretary of

President Taft Returning to Ciudad Juarez
President Diaz at El Paso

Commerce Street—Ciudad Juarez
Custom House—Ciudad Juarez

War; Frank H. Hitchcock, Postmaster-General; Gov. Campbell, of Texas, and other state officials; Capt. Archibald W. Butt, President Taft's military aid; John Hays Hammond, Dr. J. J. Richardson, Wendall Michler and Charles C. Wagner, the President's assistant secretaries.

The President of Mexico was accompanied by Gen. Manuel Gonzalez Cosio, Minister of War; Olegario Molina, Minister of Commerce, Industry, Colonization, Mines, and Agriculture; Gov. Creel, of the State of Chihuahua, formerly ambassador to the United States; Col. Pablo Escandon, chief of the military staff of President Diaz, and Ignacio de la Barra of the Mexican Committee of Arrangements.

Exchanges between the Presidents

President Taft said:

"I am very glad to welcome you, sir; I am very glad, indeed."

President Diaz answered:

"I am very happy to meet you and to have the honor of being one of the first foreigners to come over to give you a hearty welcome."

President Taft said: "It gives me not only great pleasure to welcome the President of the great Republic of Mexico, but to welcome the present President of the Republic of Mexico, who has made it so great."

President Diaz replied: "I am very proud to grasp the hand of the great statesman who has made such a record in his life—in the Philippines, in Cuba, and at present at the head of the great nation, the United States."

President Taft continued:

"I wish to express to you my belief that this meeting is looked upon by both peoples with a great deal of interest not as making stronger, but as typifying the strength of the bond between the two countries."

President Diaz:

"My friendly relations and my personal acquaintance with you will make thousands and thousands of friends of the American and Mexican peoples and beneficial development will have to follow for the good of the countries."

President Taft:

"You have already met the Secretary of War and the Governor of Texas; I shall be glad to have the privilege of presenting to you the Postmaster-General."

The Postmaster-General was thereupon presented to President Diaz.

President Taft:

"I should be glad to have the privilege of meeting your staff."

The Minister of War, Gen. Manuel Gonzalez Cosio was thereupon presented to President Taft.

President Taft, addressing the Minister of War, said:

"I have been Minister of War and therefore I have sympathy with you."

The Minister of War said:

"You have been an excellent Minister of War, and I have a good example in you."

Retire for Private Talk

President Taft:

"I should be very glad of having the pleasure of

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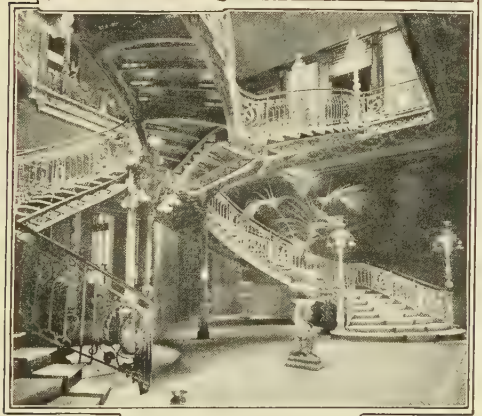
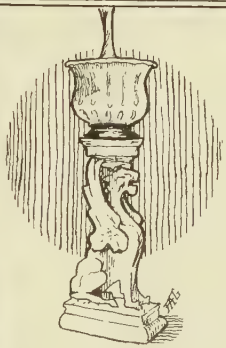
LOBBY



MAIN STAIRS



taking you and Governor Creel, who interprets so well, and who is my personal friend, into an adjoining room for just a few minutes."

Thereupon President Taft, President Diaz, and Governor Creel retired to an adjoining room for a private interview, which lasted about fifteen minutes. Less than an hour after President Diaz had withdrawn, Mr. Taft was on his way to Juarez to repay the call.

He was received at the Mexican end of the bridge by all of the troops gathered there as an escort to President Diaz, with the same honors and distinction as had marked the visit of the Mexican executive to this country.

Mr. Taft found the little Mexican frontier city a veritable cloud of waving colors. The rough adobe walls of all the buildings had been hung with the national colors of Mexico and the United States. The streets over which Mr. Taft journeyed from the bridge end to the custom-house had been converted into a continuous court of honor. Garlands of flowers and varicolored banners were looped from one towering white pillar to another.

The interview between President Diaz and President Taft in the custom-house in Juarez, was as follows:

President Diaz: "Your Excellency, the Mexican people and I feel very proud indeed to have you on Mexican soil. I believe that the personal acquaintance which I have made with you and friendly feelings which already exist between the United States and Mexico will be a guaranty of the continuance of the friendly, cordial, and strong relations between the peoples of the two countries, and that success and prosperity will follow."

Breaking Traditions Significant

President Taft: "This is the first time so far as I know that a president of the United States has stepped beyond the border of the United States, either on the north or on the south, and I esteeem it a great privilege to be the President at the time when that event has happened. I hope it is significant of the tightening of the bonds between the two countries. Railroads and other means of communication like the telegraph have brought us closer to each other, so that the City of Mexico and the City of Washington are far nearer to-day than they ever were before.

"And that means a closer union of feeling between the two peoples, a closer feeling between those responsible for the government of each country; and I esteem it the greatest honor of my life to have the privilege of representing the United States in such a significant ceremony."

President Diaz: "I thank you very much."

President Diaz presented to President Taft his son, Lieutenant-Colonel Porfirio Diaz, Jr., of the Mexican army; also his nephew, Gen. Felix Diaz, chief inspector of the Mexican police.

Banquet at Cuidad Juarez

President Taft and President Diaz sat side by side at the banquet.

The conversation was carried on partly in Spanish and partly through the interpreter. Mr. Taft retains much of the Spanish he gained in the Philippines. He received from Mayor Felix Barcenas, of Juarez, a cordial invitation to visit the city.

An interpreter began to translate the mayor's con-

Children's Asylum—City of Mexico

versation, when President Taft said he not only understood, but greatly appreciated the compliments of the mayor.

The Maximilian silver and gold service used to-night at the presidential table is valued at $1,000,000. More than $200,000 worth of cut glass also was used.

Three trainloads of flowers were gathered at Juarez from different parts of the republic to decorate the *patio* of the custom-house. A temporary room, constructed over the *patio* or open court where the dinner was served, was to-night a mass of varicolored blossoms.

A roof had been put on for the occasion, special tables had been constructed to fit the table-linen brought from Chapultepec, the national castle, and other arrangements were on an equally elaborate scale. The chef who prepared the feast was M. Damont, who for many years cooked for King Alphonso XII of Spain, and who is now official caterer in Mexico.

The ranges on which the food was cooked were transported 1500 miles, from the City of Mexico. The wines served were the oldest that could be found in the republic. The silver and gold plate was shipped to Juarez in twenty specially made boxes. The service has been under a special guard ever since it was brought to Juarez.

The two presidents, with their retinues of officials and the newspaper men in both parties, occupied a large centre table, while the remainder of the guests were arranged about it. The atmosphere of the room was heavy with the odor of Mexican gardenias and jasmines. Electric lights were half hidden among the petals of some of the flowers. Behind the two

presidents were large oil portraits of George Washington and Hidalgo, the Washington of Mexico. Above the two portraits hung the Stars and Stripes and the Mexican red, white, and green. Altogether there were only 150 guests at the dinner.

President Taft Returns to El Paso

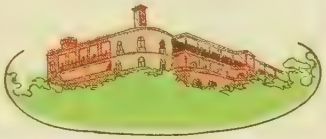
President Taft made his way back to American soil to-night in a perfect blaze of artificial light, and with an escort which changed at the international bridge from Mexican to American.

In token of remembrance of their historic meeting both presidents were presented at the dinner to-night with goblets of gold, the gift of the city of El Paso. Apart from the international significance of his visit, President Taft was warmly greeted by the people of El Paso, was entertained at a formal breakfast at the St. Regis Hotel, reviewed civic and military parades and spoke to a crowd of thousands in Carnegie Square. He said, in part:

"El Paso has been the scene to-day of a function that I hope may weld stronger than at present the bonds of the great republic south of the United States and the United States.

"It has been to me a pleasure and honor to meet that great man to whom more than to any other one person is due the greatness of the Mexican Republic, Gen. Porfirio Diaz.

"For the first time in history, except one, and that was when Theodore Roosevelt stepped over the border in Panama, when we were so mixed up on the Zone with Panama that it did not seem to be quite stepping out of the country, a president of the



COMPARATIVE AREA OF MEXICO CITY IN 1876 AND 1910.

SCALE

METERS 0 300 600 900

FEET 0 1000 2000 3000

1876 1910

United States has stepped upon foreign soil and enjoyed the hospitality of a foreign government.

"I am glad to have taken part in an event significant of the union with our powerful neighbor. I know, and you know better than I, that the prosperity of the United States is largely dependent on the prosperity of Mexico, and Mexico's prosperity dependent on ours, and we wish for her all the happiness and prosperity that can possibly come to a republic, as she does for us.

"Therefore, an event like this that marks the undying friendship of the two countries is one in which any who takes part may well have pride."

Departure of the Presidents

President Taft returned from Juarez at 8:35 P.M., and left for San Antonio at 9 o'clock.

President Diaz late to-night is speeding back to the City of Mexico.

VI

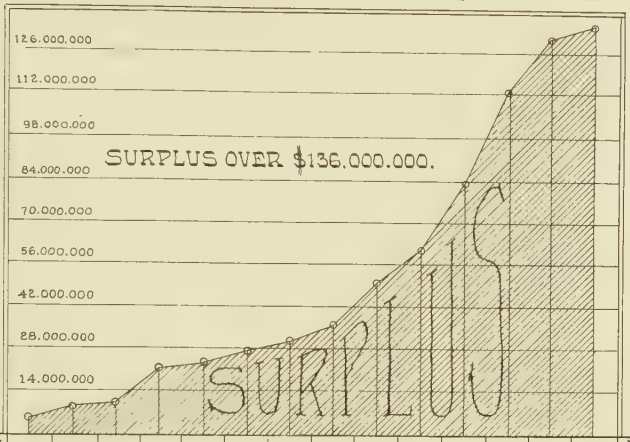
MEXICAN FINANCES AND COMMERCE IN 1909

From a report, presented by Mr. José Y. Limantour, Secretary of Finance, to the Mexican Congress at the close of its last session, on December 14, 1909, it appears that the surplus left in the National Treasury at that date was about $75,000,000 silver.

This surplus was made up from the balances left on hand at the end of the fiscal years commencing in 1895–1896, which were as follows:

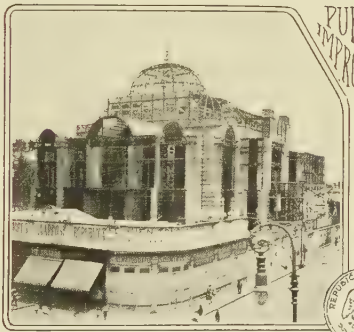
1895–1896	$5,451,347.29
1896–1897	3,170,123.50
1897–1898	882,698.89
1898–1899	6,639,670.90
1899–1900	6,316,388.54
1900–1901	3,575,798.88
1901–1902	3,065,534.99
1902–1903	7,800,893.91
1903–1904	10,092,157.72
1904–1905	12,931,090.86
1905–1906	22,505,712.02
1906–1907	29,209,481.54
1907–1908	18,594,426.51
1908–1909	5,808,117.48

SURPLUS IN THE TREASURY



FISCAL YEARS	1895 – 1896	1896 – 1897	1897 – 1898	1898 – 1899	1899 – 1900	1900 – 1901	1901 – 1902	1902 – 1903	1903 – 1904	1904 – 1905	1905 – 1906	1906 – 1907	1907 – 1908	1908 – 1909	FISCAL YEARS

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS



NATIONAL THEATRE — MEXICO CITY

DRAINAGE OF THE VALLEY OF MEXICO.

TOTAL SURPLUS	$136.000.000.
SPENT FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS	61.000.000.
SURPLUS AT PRESENT	75.000.000.

F. H. Gordon

Thus, in the fourteen fiscal years mentioned, the aggregate surplus amounted to over one hundred and thirty-six million *pesos*. Seventy-one million *pesos* of this surplus have been spent in important public works, in conformity with legislative enactments, leaving at present in the National Treasury, as mentioned above, about seventy-five million *pesos*.

The official report of the Statistical Bureau of the Department of Finance of Mexico was issued shortly before the publication of this work. That statement shows that during the first three months of the fiscal year, 1909–1910, the total value of imports was 39,873,936 *pesos* and of exports 60,928,122 *pesos*, thus showing a gain of 4,816,481 *pesos* for imports, and of 9,949,856 *pesos* for exports over the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year.

The figures given above we think conclusively show the flourishing condition of the finances and foreign trade of the Mexican Republic.

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